2025-26 SESSION

SENATE
THIRD READING PACKET

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

OFFICE OF SENATE FLOOR ANALYSES
651-4171

SENATE THIRD READING PACKET

Attached are analyses of bills on the Daily File for Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Note	Measure	Author	Location
	SB 96	Umberg	Special Consent Calendar No.35
+	SB 226	Cabaldon	Unfinished Business
+	SB 239	Arreguín	Unfinished Business
	SB 299	Cabaldon	Unfinished Business
	SB 329	Blakespear	Unfinished Business
	SB 490	Umberg	Unfinished Business
	SB 505	Richardson	Special Consent Calendar No.35
RA	SB 549	Allen	Unfinished Business
RA	SB 561	Blakespear	Unfinished Business
+	SB 594	Padilla	Unfinished Business
	SB 626	Smallwood-Cuevas	Unfinished Business
+	SB 632	Arreguín	Unfinished Business
RA	SB 661	Hurtado	Unfinished Business
	SB 667	Archuleta	Unfinished Business
+	SB 700	Grayson	Unfinished Business
	SB 747	Wiener	Unfinished Business
RA	SB 758	Umberg	Unfinished Business
+	SB 769	Caballero	Unfinished Business
	SB 772	Cabaldon	Unfinished Business
+	SB 802	Ashby	Unfinished Business
	SB 837	Reyes	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 845	Pérez	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 849	Weber Pierson	Unfinished Business
	SB 873	Reyes	Unfinished Business
RA	SB 891	Cervantes	Unfinished Business
+	SB 894	Allen	Unfinished Business
	SB 913	Becker	Unfinished Business
	SB 916	Ashby	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 920	Archuleta	Unfinished Business
+	SB 923	Becker	Unfinished Business
	SB 936	Blakespear	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 944	Wiener	Unfinished Business
	SB 955	Blakespear	Special Consent Calendar No.36
RA	SB 958	Weber Pierson	Unfinished Business
+	SB 959	Grayson	Unfinished Business
	SB 965	Blakespear	Special Consent Calendar No.35
+	SB 969	Reyes	Unfinished Business
	SB 971	Choi	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	SB 973	Becker	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 974	Seyarto	Special Consent Calendar No.36
+	SB 983	Weber Pierson	Unfinished Business
	SB 989	Blakespear	Unfinished Business
RA	SB 991	Menjivar	Unfinished Business
	SB 993	Ochoa Bogh	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 996	Padilla	Unfinished Business
	SB 1000	Becker	Unfinished Business

\+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

Note	Measure	Author	Location
+	SB 1004	Wiener	Unfinished Business
	SB 1017	Reyes	Special Consent Calendar No.36
+	SB 1024	Menjivar	Unfinished Business
	SB 1046	Blakespear	Unfinished Business
	SB 1047	Niello	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 1048	Becker	Unfinished Business
	SB 1051	Menjivar	Unfinished Business
	SB 1062	Ochoa Bogh	Unfinished Business
	SB 1064	Dahle	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 1067	Weber Pierson	Unfinished Business
	SB 1069	Grayson	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 1083	Pérez	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1085	Durazo	Unfinished Business
	SB 1088	Blakespear	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	SB 1089	Richardson	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 1091	Caballero	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1094	Weber Pierson	Unfinished Business
	SB 1105	Pérez	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1107	Stern	Unfinished Business
	SB 1124	Archuleta	Unfinished Business
RA	SB 1164	Cervantes	Unfinished Business
	SB 1167	Blakespear	Unfinished Business
	SB 1169	Grayson	Special Consent Calendar No.35
+	SB 1173	Caballero	Unfinished Business
	SB 1190	Grove	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1195	Rubio	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1205	Valladares	Unfinished Business
	SB 1208	Grayson	Unfinished Business
	SB 1213	Reyes	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1223	Padilla	Unfinished Business
	SB 1227	Durazo	Special Consent Calendar No.36
+	SB 1235	Rubio	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1238	Wahab	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1240	McNerney	Unfinished Business
	SB 1242	Choi	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1247	Padilla	Unfinished Business
	SB 1255	Reyes	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1268	Gonzalez	Unfinished Business
	SB 1271	Reyes	Unfinished Business
	SB 1272	Menjivar	Unfinished Business
	SB 1273	Cabaldon	Unfinished Business
	SB 1276	Rubio	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1302	Wahab	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1304	Wahab	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1311	Wahab	Special Consent Calendar No.36
+	SB 1312	Richardson	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1340	Richardson	Unfinished Business
	SB 1341	Cabaldon	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1344	Cabaldon	Unfinished Business
	SB 1363	Wahab	Special Consent Calendar No.36

+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

Note	Measure	Author	Location
	SB 1368	Wahab	Special Consent Calendar No.36
+	SB 1374	Niello	Unfinished Business
	SB 1393	McGuire	Unfinished Business
+	SB 1401	Stern	Unfinished Business
	SB 1410	Limón	Special Consent Calendar No.35
+	SB 1418	Cervantes	Unfinished Business
	SB 1420	Richardson	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	SB 1432	Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	SB 1435	Committee on Revenue and Taxation	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 1436	Committee on Revenue and Taxation	Special Consent Calendar No.36
	SB 1438	Committee on Local Government	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	SB 1439	Committee on Local Government	Special Consent Calendar No.36
+	SB 1443	Committee on Education	Unfinished Business
	SB 1445	Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development	Unfinished Business
	SB 1447	Committee on Health	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	SCR 145	Weber Pierson	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 139	Becker	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	SR 140	Strickland	Senate Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2	Lowenthal	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 54	Krell	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 69	Calderon	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 220	Jackson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 387	Alanis	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 540	Connolly	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 605	Muratsuchi	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 635	Ahrens	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 664	Alvarez	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 690	Schultz	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 713	Solache	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 767	Alanis	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 775	Fong	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 788	Quirk-Silva	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 904	Aguiar-Curry	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 917	Ávila Farías	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1018	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1039	Hart	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1099	Bryan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1129	Celeste Rodriguez	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1159	Addis	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 1198	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1307	Ávila Farías	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1331	Elhawary	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1346	DeMaio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1349	Bryan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1377	McKinnor	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

Note	Measure	Author	Location
	AB 1383	McKinnor	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 1405	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1526	Committee on Governmental Organization	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1534	Irwin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1537	Bryan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1540	Mark González	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1542	Ward	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1546	Schultz	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 1555	Hadwick	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1556	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1560	Tangipa	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1567	Ta	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1572	Alanis	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1575	Arambula	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 1581	Ramos	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1586	Ramos	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1588	Stefani	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1590	Ransom	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1600	Arambula	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1602	Blanca Rubio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1609	Zbur	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1633	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1640	Stefani	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1642	Harabedian	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1646	Bryan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1650	Caloza	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1680	Calderon	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1687	Lackey	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1699	Rogers	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1707	Davies	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1709	Lowenthal	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1715	Schiavo	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1729	Lee	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1741	Pacheco	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1755	Sharp-Collins	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1767	Berman	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1769	Ramos	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 1776	Aguiar-Curry	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1795	Gipson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1798	Wilson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1808	Carrillo	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1813	Ward	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1815	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1830	Petrie-Norris	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1832	Ransom	Special Consent Calendar No.35
RA	AB 1841	Ramos	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1844	Pacheco	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1845	Krell	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1846	Stefani	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1871	Fong	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

Note	Measure	Author	Location
RA	AB 1881	Ramos	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1883	Bryan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1887	Zbur	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1890	Aguiar-Curry	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1891	Connolly	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1896	Mark González	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1897	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1902	Pellerin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1903	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1904	Gipson	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1906	Aguiar-Curry	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1907	Addis	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1934	Bennett	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1940	Calderon	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1960	Bennett	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1967	Zbur	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 1969	Bonta	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1974	Stefani	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1976	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 1981	Aguiar-Curry	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1983	Blanca Rubio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 1985	Irwin	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 1996	Bonta	Special Consent Calendar No.35
+	AB 2005	Ahrens	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2009	Chen	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2012	Hoover	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2015	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2017	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2020	Gabriel	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2023	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2028	Chen	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2032	Ransom	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2035	Dixon	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2047	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 2051	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2055	Jeff Gonzalez	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 2058	Harabedian	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 2059	Wilson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2061	Chen	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2074	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2080	Johnson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2081	Stefani	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 2103	Irwin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2121	Berman	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2142	Garcia	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2152	Mark González	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2167	Macedo	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2179	Patel	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2200	Hart	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2204	Gabriel	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

Note	Measure	Author	Location
	AB 2207	Hadwick	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2212	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2222	Ward	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2225	Patel	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2227	Connolly	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2231	Ahrens	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2234	Papan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 2244	Gabriel	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2246	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2253	Boerner	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2266	Schultz	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2281	Berman	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
RA	AB 2294	Ta	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2298	Irwin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2313	Berman	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2318	Elhawary	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2319	Schultz	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2321	Ortega	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2322	Papan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2326	Committee on Agriculture	Special Consent Calendar No.35
+	AB 2329	Fong	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
+	AB 2337	Lackey	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2344	Haney	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2369	Rogers	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2375	Blanca Rubio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2379	Solache	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2383	Zbur	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2414	Nguyen	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2417	Zbur	Special Consent Calendar No.35
	AB 2433	Alvarez	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2434	Bonta	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2437	Chen	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2439	Blanca Rubio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2440	Muratsuchi	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2467	Committee on Education	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2469	Papan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2478	Schultz	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2493	Petrie-Norris	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2513	Petrie-Norris	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2518	Sharp-Collins	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2529	Johnson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2532	Irwin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2536	Blanca Rubio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2539	Ramos	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2540	Stefani	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2551	Elhawary	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2562	Dixon	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2563	Pacheco	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2564	Ward	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2573	Sharp-Collins	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

Note	Measure	Author	Location
	AB 2575	Ortega	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2592	Pacheco	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2598	Krell	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2601	Lee	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2604	Berman	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2631	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2633	Gipson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2644	Blanca Rubio	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2664	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2667	Hadwick	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2689	Ávila Farías	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2694	Alvarez	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2697	Pellerin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2713	Wicks	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2717	Caloza	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2724	Bauer-Kahan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2739	Soria	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2770	Alvarez	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2776	Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2779	Irwin	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2782	Committee on Judiciary	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2784	Committee on Judiciary	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2792	Committee on Governmental Organization	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2793	Committee on Governmental Organization	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AB 2796	Committee on Public Safety	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACA 7	Jackson	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 165	Kalra	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 173	Carrillo	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 176	Elhawary	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 199	Kalra	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 207	Kalra	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	ACR 211	Celeste Rodriguez	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AJR 6	Aguiar-Curry	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File
	AJR 31	Bryan	Assembly Bills - Third Reading File

+ ADDS
RA Revised Analysis
* Analysis pending

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 96
Author: Umberg (D)
Amended: 6/26/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 1/12/26
AYES: Ashby, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar, Strickland

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 1/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 8/6/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Streaming services: commercial advertisements

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a music streaming service, podcast streaming service, or video streaming service that serves California consumers from transmitting the audio of commercial advertisements louder than the video content the advertisements accompany.

Assembly Amendments extend the implementation date to January 1, 2027; delete the definition of social media video service; and clarify that a video streaming service includes a user-generated video streaming service.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits, beginning July 1, 2026, a video streaming service that serves California consumers from transmitting the audio of commercial advertisements louder than the video content the advertisements accompany, consistent with the regulations adopted by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act (Public Law 111-311) for television broadcast stations, cable operators, and other multichannel video programming distributors. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 22776)

2) Defines "video programming" as having the same meaning as the term is defined in Section 613(h) of Title 47 of the United States Code, which is programming by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by a television broadcast station but not including consumer-generated media. (BPC § 22775)

3) Defines "video streaming service" as an entity that makes video programming or video content the entity makes available for users to view. Specifies that "video streaming service" does not include a television broadcast station, cable operator, or other multichannel video programing distributor, or an entity that serves video programming or video content without commercial advertisements.

4) States that the prohibition in 1) above does not create a private right of action. (BPC § 22775)

5) Existing federal law establishes standards for the transmission of commercial advertisements by a television broadcast station, cable operator, or other multichannel video programming distributor by requiring, within 1 year after December 15, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a regulation for the "Recommended Practice: Techniques for Establishing and Maintaining Audio Loudness for Digital Television" (Advanced Television Systems Committee's (ATSC) A/85 Recommended Practice ("ATSC A/85 RP") (47 U.S.C. § 621)

This bill:

1) Prohibits a music streaming service, podcast streaming service, or video streaming service that serves California consumers from transmitting the audio of commercial advertisements louder than the content the advertisements accompany.

2) Extends the implementation from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027.

Background

According to the FCC, Congress enacted the CALM Act to direct the FCC to establish rules to require commercials to have the same average volume as the programs they accompany. These rules went into effect on December 13, 2012. Specifically, the CALM Act directs the FCC to establish rules that require TV stations, cable operators, satellite TV providers or other multichannel video program distributors to apply the Advanced Television Systems Committee's (ATSC) A/85 Recommended Practice ("ATSC A/85 RP") to commercial advertisements they transmit to viewers. The ATSC A/85 RP is a set of methods to measure and control the audio loudness of digital programming, including commercials. This standard can be used by all broadcast television stations and pay TV providers. The ATSC practice does not set an absolute cap on loudness. Rather, it requires commercials to have the same average volume as the programming they accompany, so that the volume a consumer chooses is the one at which both the programming and the advertisements will air. The FCC relies on consumer complaints to monitor industry compliance.

In 2023, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Representative Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) introduced legislation, S. 1127 and H.R. 2422, to extend the CALM Act's prohibitions to all ad-supported streaming services to ensure that the volume of commercials on streaming services is not louder than regular programming. It also grants the FCC the ability to investigate and enforce violations of the CALM Act by broadcast, cable, and satellite TV operators and requires a study analyzing the effectiveness of the CALM Act in moderating ad loudness. The measures were referred to their respective policy committees, but it appears no further action was taken.

Comments

This bill specifies certain prohibitions on activity by entities that serve consumers throughout the nation and world. It is unclear whether it is feasible for music streaming services, podcast streaming services or video streaming services to establish advertisement transmission standards only for California residents. This effort may be more appropriate for the federal government to address by updating the CALM Act to include all ad-supported streaming services. This bill additionally lacks any type of enforcement mechanism and does not include a pathway for consumers to report a violation of the proposed prohibition, and it is unclear if this bill will result in any meaningful change without enforcement or whether consumers will just continue to report complaints and concerns about advertising volume to the FCC as they do today.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/7/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/7/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 8/6/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Castillo, Flora, Fong, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Valencia

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / Anna Billy B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/7/26 14:57:20

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 226
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 6/11/26
Vote: 21

Prior Senate votes not relevant.

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 8/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Infrastructure revitalization financing districts

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill allows infrastructure revitalization financing districts to finance entertainment and sports facilities.

Assembly Amendments deleted the contents of the bill and inserted the current provisions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes a city or county to create an infrastructure revitalization financing districts (IRFDs) by adopting a resolution of intention that outlines the types of facilities it will finance, that it will use tax-increment financing (TIF) to finance those facilities, and fix a time and place for a public hearing on the proposed district. The city or county must mail a copy of the resolution to each landowner and affected taxing entity. After adopting the resolution, the city or county must direct the city engineer to prepare an infrastructure financing plan (IFP) describing the proposed district as specified.

2) Requires the city or county to send each landowner and affected taxing entity a copy of the IFP and conduct a public hearing no sooner than 60 days after sending the plan. At the conclusion of the hearing, the city or county can adopt a resolution proposing formation of the district.

3) Requires, upon adopting the resolution, the city or county to receive 2/3 voter approval at the next general election to form the district. The IRFD must also receive 2/3 voter approval to issue bonds, but can consolidate the elections to form the district and issue bonds.

4) Allows IRFDs to finance the purchase, construction, expansion, improvement, seismic retrofit, or rehabilitation of any real or other tangible property with an estimated useful life of 15 years or longer, planning and design work directly related to that property and other specified costs. However, IRFDs must not finance routine maintenance, repair work, or the costs of ongoing operation or for providing services of any kind. These projects must be of communitywide significance, and can include everything from highways and public utility infrastructure to the acquisition, construction, or repair of commercial or industrial structures for private use.

This bill allows IRFDs to finance entertainment or sports facilities.

Background

From the early 1950s until their dissolution in 2011, California redevelopment agencies (RDAs) used property tax increment financing (TIF) to pay for economic development projects in blighted areas pursuant to Community Redevelopment Law. Generally, TIF involves a local government forming a TIF district to issue bonds and use the bond proceeds to pay project costs within the boundaries of a specified project area. To repay the bonds, the district captures increased property tax revenues generated when projects the bonds finance increase assessed property values within the project area. To calculate the increased property tax revenues captured by the district, the amount of property tax revenues received by any local agency participating in the district is "frozen" at the amount it received from property within a project area prior to the project area's formation. In future years, as the project area's assessed valuation grows above the frozen base, the resulting additional property tax revenues—the so-called property tax "increment" revenues—flow to the TIF district instead of other local agencies. After the district has repaid the bonds using the incremental property tax revenues, the district dissolves, ending the diversion of tax increment revenues from participating local agencies.

Following their dissolution, local officials sought other ways to use TIF to raise the capital they need to fund public works projects. In response, the Legislature enacted SB 628 (Beall, Chapter 785, Statutes of 2014) to allow local officials to create Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs), which augment the tax increment financing powers available to local agencies under existing infrastructure financing district statutes. While the Legislature has created other similar financing tools, they have seldom, or never, been used.

The Legislature authorized the creation of IRFDs in 2014 (AB 229, Pérez, Chapter 775, Statutes of 2014). In 2017, the City and County of San Francisco formed an IRFD to finance infrastructure projects on Treasure Island.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "The City of West Sacramento has emerged as one of the jurisdictions in California effectively using infrastructure financing districts and similar tools to drive development. When putting together large revitalization and infrastructure projects representing hundreds of millions or billions of dollars in investments, certainty matters. By making this straightforward clarification to existing law, any ambiguity would be removed, providing legal certainty to local agencies. Importantly, the major economic development opportunities utilizing IRFDs and the like, generate jobs and revitalize communities without burdening taxpayers or general fund resources."

2) *Sure, but will it work?* Proposition 13 (1978) capped property tax rates at 1% of assessed value (which only changes upon new construction or when ownership changes). If properties do not get reassessed, the Constitution caps growth at 2% per year. The general theory behind TIF is that a local agency creates a district because it expects significant property tax growth generated through reassessments when property changes hands or is improved. Otherwise, a TIF district only receives the increment that comes from the 2% growth, which may not be sufficient to generate enough revenue to finance significant infrastructure projects in a timely fashion. When the TIF district uses these resources to finance infrastructure projects, it can springboard additional property tax growth. In other words, the TIF district pays for itself. When RDAs existed, they had at least two important advantages over current TIF districts. First, they received increment from the school share of property tax revenue, which the state backfilled from the General Fund in many cases. Second, they received increment that would have otherwise gone to other local agencies without their approval. This generated billions of dollars in additional funds that cities and counties could only access through redevelopment. Even

with these key features, research has found that RDAs generally did not generate enough growth in property values to justify the property tax revenue they received. This research suggests that TIF districts, like IRFDs, won't effectively finance infrastructure projects without a subsidy.

3) *Pick me.* Since RDAs dissolved in 2012, the Legislature has created numerous TIF tools. Despite the creation of these numerous tools, local agencies so far have largely relied upon EIFDs to use TIF financing. This is for several reasons, including recent efforts to streamline their formation process and because they do not require voter approval to form or issue bonds. Instead, EIFDs rely upon a process that allows residents to protest their formation. SB 226 picks a different TIF tool, which has been used more sparingly, to give the authority to finance sports and entertainment facilities. IRFDs, unlike EIFDs, require 2/3 voter approval for formation and to issue bonds, making them more time-consuming and costly to form. However, the additional public input that IRFD law requires may be justified because IRFDs can finance any commercial facilities, but EIFDs only have the explicit authority to finance commercial facilities for small businesses. One of the critiques of original RDAs was that cities used them to finance commercial facilities that had greater private commercial benefits than public benefits. While SB 226 expands the types of commercial facilities IRFDs can finance to include entertainment and sports facilities, it preserves the 2/3 vote requirement to form IRFDs and issue bonds, which ensures the public has adequate input in decisions to use TIF to finance commercial facilities.

4) *Necessary?* Since 2014, IRFDs have had the authority to finance the acquisition, construction, or repair of commercial or industrial structures for private use. This would appear to include entertainment or sports facilities. While SB 226 would explicitly authorize entertainment or sports facilities, IRFDs may already have this authority.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Hotel & Lodging Association
California Retailers Association
California Travel Association (CALTRAVEL)
City of Sacramento
City of West Sacramento
Greater Sacramento Economic Council
Sacramento Hotel Association (SHA)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 8/20/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen, Jackson

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/26/26 13:00:01

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 239
Author: Arreguín (D)
Amended: 7/2/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Crimes: criminal threats

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the court to consider, as a factor in aggravation in sentencing a person for making criminal threats, that the defendant willfully threatened to commit a crime that would result in the death or great bodily injury of an elections official of a city, county, city and county, or public district, or an elected local agency official.

Assembly Amendments delete the prior version of this bill and amend this bill to the current version.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that any person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person, with the specific intent that the statement, made verbally, in writing, or by means of an electronic communication device, is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate

prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for their own safety or for their immediate family's safety, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 422, subd. (a).)

2) Provides that in sentencing a person convicted of making felony criminal threats, the court may consider, as a factor in aggravation, that the defendant willfully threatened to commit a crime that would result in death or great bodily injury of a person the defendant knew was a state constitutional officer, a Member of the Legislature, or a judge or court commissioner. (Pen. Code, § 422, subd. (b).)

3) Makes a felony violation of Penal Code section 422 a "serious felony," and therefore a "strike" for purposes of Three Strikes sentencing. (Pen. Code, § 1192.7, subd. (c).)

4) States that any person who, with intent to annoy, telephones another, or contacts him or her by means of an electronic device, and threatens to inflict injury on the person or the person's family, or to the person's property, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, § 653m, subd. (a).)

5) Provides that every person who attempts, by means of any threat or violence, to deter or prevent an executive officer from performing any duty imposed upon the officer by law, or who knowingly resists, by the use of force or violence, the officer, in the performance of his or her duty, is punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, § 69, subd. (a).)

6) States that every person who knowingly and willingly threatens the life of, or threatens serious bodily harm to, any elected public official, county public defender, county clerk, exempt appointee of the Governor, judge, or Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms, or the staff, immediate family, or immediate family of the staff of any elected public official, county public defender, county clerk, exempt appointee of the Governor, judge, or Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, and the apparent ability to carry out that threat by any means, is guilty of a public offense. (Pen. Code, § 76, subd. (a).)

7) States that no person shall knowingly post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official, or of the official's residing spouse or child, on the internet knowing that person is an elected or appointed official

and intending to cause imminent great bodily harm that is likely to occur or threatening to cause imminent great bodily harm to that individual. Punishes the crime as a misdemeanor, or a felony, depending on the circumstances. (Pen. Code, § 76.5.)

8) States that any person who commits assault upon specified public officials or attempts to commit murder against any of those specified officials in retaliation for or to prevent the performance of the victim's official duties, shall be punished by a felony, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 217.1.)

9) Provides that when a judgment of imprisonment is to be imposed and the statute specifies three possible terms, the court shall in its sound discretion order imposition of a sentence not to exceed the middle term, except as specified. (Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(1).)

10) Provides that the court may impose a sentence exceeding the middle term only when there are circumstances in aggravation of the crime that justify the imposition of a term of imprisonment exceeding the middle term and the facts underlying those circumstances have been stipulated to by the defendant or have been found true beyond a reasonable doubt at trial by the jury or by the judge in a court trial. (Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(2).)

11) States that notwithstanding the presumption for the middle term, and unless the court finds that the aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating circumstances and that imposition of the lower term would be contrary to the interests of justice, the court shall order imposition of the lower term if the defendant experienced psychological, physical, or childhood trauma, is a youth (under age 26), or is or has been a victim of domestic violence or human trafficking. (Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(6).)

12) Defines "local agency official" to mean any member of a local agency legislative body and any elected local agency official. (Gov. Code, § 53237, subd. (b).)

13) Prohibits any state or local agency from publicly posting the home address, telephone number, or the name and assessor parcel number associated with the home address of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual. (Gov. Code, § 7928.205, subd. (a).)

This bill authorizes a court to, in sentencing a person convicted of a felony criminal threat, consider as an aggravating factor that the threat was made against an elections official of a city, county, city and county, or public district, or an elected local agency official.

Background

Existing law punishes criminal threats. (Pen. Code, § 422.) A law that restricts speech has First Amendment implications. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech. . . ." This fundamental right is applicable to the states through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. (*Aguilar v. Avis Rent A Car System*, *Inc*. (1999) 21 Cal.4th 121, 133-134, citing *Gitlow v. People of New York* (1925) 268 U.S. 652, 666.) The California Constitution provides that: "Every person may freely speak, write and publish his or her sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of this right. A law may not restrain or abridge liberty of speech or press." (Cal. Const., art. I, § 2, subd. (a).)

While these guarantees are stated in broad terms, "the right to free speech is not absolute." (*Aguilar v. Avis Rent A Car System, Inc.*, *supra*, 21 Cal.4th at p. 134, citing *Near v. Minnesota* (1931) 283 U.S. 697, 708). As the U.S. Supreme Court has acknowledged: "Many crimes can consist solely of spoken words, such as soliciting a bribe, perjury, or making a terrorist threat." (*Ibid.; See* Pen. Code, §§ 653f; 118; 422).

Content-based restrictions on speech are presumptively invalid (*R.A.V. v. St. Paul* (1992) 505 U.S. 382), however, courts have upheld restrictions on content-based speech when the speech is " 'of such slight social value as a step to truth that any benefit that may be derived from them is clearly outweighed by the social interest in order and morality.' Thus, for example, a State may punish those words 'which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace.' " (*In re J.M.* (2019) 36 Cal.App.5th 668, 674, citing *Virginia v. Black* (2003) 538 U.S. 343, 358-359.)

True threats are not protected by the First Amendment. (*In re M.S.* (1995) 10 Cal.4th 698, 709.) Existing Penal Code section 422 has been found to be constitutional because it is narrowly tailored to apply only to true threats, which are defined as threats "to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person . . . which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to

convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat." (*People v. Toledo* (2001) 26 Cal.4th 221, 233.)

To convict a person under Penal Code section 422, the prosecutor must prove the following:

- That the defendant willfully threatened to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person;
- That the defendant made the threat;
- That the defendant intended that the statement be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out;
- That the threat was so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat;
- That the threat actually caused the person threatened to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety; and
- That the threatened person's fear was reasonable under the circumstances. (Pen. Code, § 422; CALCRIM No. 1300; see also *People v. Toledo* (2001) 26 Cal.4th 221, 227-228.)

Penal Code section 422 applies to all criminal threats that will result in death or great bodily injury regardless of the person threatened, the location, or the exact type of violence that is threatened. A violation of Section 422 is punishable as either a misdemeanor or a felony. (Pen. Code, § 422.) When a criminal threats conviction is punished as a felony, it is also a serious felony for purposes of enhanced punishment under the Three Strikes Law (Pen. Code, § 1192.7, subd. (c)(38)) and the five-year prison enhancement for prior serious felony convictions (Pen. Code, § 667). Additionally, it triggers credit earning limitations. (Pen. Code, § 1170.12.)

California's sentencing scheme is, for the most part, determinate—it is referred to as the determinate sentencing law (DSL). (Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(1).) Any person convicted of a felony is sentenced to one of three sentence terms (known as a sentencing triad). For example, a person convicted of a first-degree burglary may be sentenced to two, four, or six years in the state prison. The court must consider factors in aggravation, and those factors must be proven to the trier of fact beyond a reasonable doubt before imposing the upper term. (Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(2) & (6).)

Existing law, enacted last year through AB 352 (Pacheco, Chapter 554, Statutes of 2025), added criminal threats against a state constitutional officer, a Member of the Legislature, or a judge or commissioner as a factor in aggravation that may authorize imposition of the upper term if the jury finds it true beyond a reasonable doubt. The California Rules of Court enumerate circumstances in aggravation and mitigation, relating both to the crime and to the defendant. (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 4.421, 4.423.) In addition, any other factors statutorily declared to be circumstances in aggravation or mitigation that reasonably relate to the defendant or the circumstances under which the crime was committed can be considered in aggravation.

This bill expands existing law to add criminal threats against a city, county, city and county, or public district, or a local agency official. In order to consider this a factor in aggravation, it will have to be either admitted by the defendant, or found to be true beyond a reasonable doubt by the jury, or by the judge in the case of a bench trial.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

Potential increase in state incarceration costs (General Fund) of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, to the extent the new aggravating factor results in imposition of the upper term rather than the middle term in felony criminal threats cases involving the specified officials. Potential court cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund) of an unknown, but likely minor amount, to the extent pleading and proving the new aggravating factor to the trier of fact marginally lengthens some trials and sentencing proceedings.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
California Contract Cities Association
California Municipal Clerks Association
California Special Districts Association
Valley Industry and Commerce Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT:

The California Municipal Clerks Association writes:

> In recent years, the public servants who administer our elections and deliver essential local services have faced a troubling rise in threats and intimidation. These individuals carry out duties that are fundamental to democratic governance and to the daily functioning of our communities, yet they are increasingly targeted for harassment intended to coerce, silence, or endanger them.
>
> SB 239 recognizes the seriousness of this conduct and affirms that those who serve the public deserve protection from violence and the threat of violence. By allowing courts to weigh such threats as a factor in aggravation, this bill provides a measured and appropriate sentencing tool that reflects the gravity of intimidating public officials in the performance of their duties. The bill preserves judicial discretion while signaling clearly that threats against local elections officials and local agency officials will not be treated as ordinary offenses. We believe this approach will help deter future misconduct, support the recruitment and retention of dedicated public servants, and safeguard the integrity of the local functions on which our residents rely.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/20/26
Ayes: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
No Vote Recorded: Chen

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 13:02:07

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 299
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 4-3, 4/23/25
AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Laird, Wiener
NOES: Durazo, Choi, Seyarto

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-1, 4/30/25
AYES: Blakespear, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez
NOES: Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 1/12/26
AYES: Arreguín, Ochoa Bogh, Becker, Menjivar, Pérez

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 1/13/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Dahle, Gonzalez, Menjivar, Pérez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 1/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: day care center: zoning

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for day care centers located in residential areas, while excluding projects located within 3,200 feet of a facility that actively extracts or refines oil or natural gas and projects located on natural and protected lands, as defined.

Assembly Amendments strike 'family daycare homes' from the CEQA exemption and expand the scope of the exemption to include projects that are on residential, rather than exclusively residential, parcels.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires under CEQA that a lead agency determines whether a project is exempt from CEQA, or if it must do an initial study to determine if a project will have significant effects on the environment. If a project has no effect on the environment or effects that can be mitigated, the lead agency prepares a negative declaration (ND) or mitigated ND (MND). If the project will have significant impacts, the lead agency prepares an environmental impact report (EIR) to evaluate and propose mitigation measures for any effects on the environment, including impacts or likely impacts to land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and historic or aesthetic significance. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§21000 et seq.)

2) Establishes numerous exemptions from CEQA in statute and in the CEQA Guidelines. These include, among many others, the following exemptions:

    a) Class 32 categorical exemption for infill development projects that are consistent with a general plan and zoning, are substantially surrounded by urban uses and do not impinge on habitat or result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality, and can be adequately served by utilities and public services. (CEQA Guidelines §15332)

    b) Class 1 categorical exemption for existing facilities. This exemption covers the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. (CEQA Guidelines §15301)

c) PRC 21080.69(a)(1) (SB 131 CEQA exemption for daycare facilities) establishes a CEQA exemption for daycare facilities that are not located on natural and protected lands, as defined, and are not in areas zoned residential.

d) Establishes a ministerial approval process for daycare centers co-located with multifamily housing for purposes of CEQA (Health and Safety Code HSC 1597.22). Projects approved by a ministerial process are not subject to CEQA.

This bill:

1) Creates a CEQA exemption for a daycare center on residential parcels with the guardrail that the facility is not located:

   a) On natural and protected lands, as defined.

   b) Within 3,200 feet of a facility that extracts or refines oil or natural gas.

Background

1) *The A, B, C's of CEQA*. CEQA is designed to (a) make government agencies and the public aware of the environmental impacts of a proposed project, (b) ensure the public can take part in the review process, and (c) identify and implement measures to mitigate or eliminate any negative impact the project may have on the environment. CEQA is enforced by civil lawsuits that can challenge any project's environmental review.

   Under CEQA, projects (unless they have a specific exemption) must undergo environmental analysis. This process starts with an initial study which determines what level of further environmental review is needed for a given project. If a project has no significant effects on the environment, or if those effects can be fully mitigated, the project can move forward with a ND or MND. If the initial study finds the project has potential significant effects on the environment, then a full EIR is conducted.

2) *CEQA exemptions for daycare centers*. Currently, most childcare facilities are exempt from CEQA. A search of the terms "childcare" and "preschool" and "daycare" on CEQAnet, the statewide database of CEQA documents, returns dozens of examples of Notices of Exemptions for these facilities. Common CEQA exemptions for childcare facilities include the 'existing facilities' CEQA exemption for buildings that are being repurposed, and the Class 32 'infill' exemption for projects in infill areas. Many more daycare facilities are

likely considered by-right, meaning that they are not subject to CEQA at all and may not file notices of exemption. The same search of 'childcare' and 'preschool' returned no examples of the more environmentally intensive EIR documents being prepared for daycare facilities. In other words, childcare facilities are almost always CEQA exempt under current law.

3) *CEQA lawsuits against Napa Childcare Facility.* Le Petit Elephant Nursery and Preschool in Napa faced three CEQA lawsuits while it was preparing to expand its childcare facilities at a vacant church. La Petit Elephant Nursery had filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) under CEQA for the project using two existing relevant categorical exemptions: the Class 1 'existing facilities' exemption, and the Class 32 'infill exemption" for this. However, according to local news sources, neighbors of the proposed nursery and preschool brought a lawsuit against the project "alleging violations of CEQA and a potential impact on traffic, air quality, and safety in the neighborhood." This challenge contested the assumption that the daycare center met the eligibility criteria for the categorical exemptions it used.

   All lawsuits were eventually dropped in March 2025, following a settlement between the daycare and neighbors. According to local news coverage, the terms of the settlement required that the day care increase its enrollment gradually (reaching its maximum 250 enrollees in its third and ongoing years) and specified that parking is only allowed on-site, prohibiting "queuing of vehicles onto public streets". The settlement further required that the day care only be allowed to host "ancillary activities" if they are child-oriented and do not include weddings, anniversary and retirement parties or sports competitions etc., and requires that if the Office of Emergency Services issues an evacuation warning, the day care must close its facility.[1]

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author "Last year, the Legislature enacted California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform intended to streamline approval of childcare facilities. In practice, the language has limited the effectiveness of that exemption, particularly for facilities not located on parcels zoned exclusively for residential use.

   "SB 299 provides that childcare facilities are not subject to CEQA delay where no meaningful environmental impacts are at issue. Most CEQA challenges to

[1] The Press Democrat: Napa day care expansion to move forward after neighbors decide to drop lawsuit.

childcare projects in residential areas are unrelated to air, water, or natural resource protection and instead reflect local opposition to neighborhood-serving uses. SB 299 ensures families can access childcare close to home, consistent with both environmental values and community needs."

2) *Pros and Cons of a New Exemption*? While the lawsuits against Le Petit Elephant Nursery and Preschool in Napa have already been resolved through a settlement, a new CEQA exemption such as the one proposed in this bill could offer more and potentially less legally-risky pathways to skip CEQA for daycare facilities. This bill has fewer eligibility requirements than the commonly used Class 1 and Class 32 CEQA exemptions, and the requirements are more straightforward and thus less vulnerable to legal challenge. In some cases, the new CEQA exemption in this bill would thus speed up deployment of new childcare facilities and provide essential childcare facilities to communities they serve.

   The benefit to some childcare facilities, and communities, must be weighed against potential risks of unintended consequences that could result from a new CEQA exemption. Given that most daycare centers are already eligible for existing CEQA exemptions, it is worth considering the potential use cases for this new CEQA exemption. As discussed above, such a CEQA exemption could benefit daycare centers by providing a CEQA exemption that would be difficult to challenge, given that the criteria to use the exemption are fairly straightforward and could be evaluated early in siting decisions. However, a CEQA exemption for daycare facilities that does not include environmental guardrails might also result in unmitigated environmental impacts or potentially unsafe siting.

   This bill takes this into account by adding in environmental guardrails to ensure that daycare and childcare facilities are not located on natural and protected lands and are not located near oil and natural gas extraction and refineries which are harmful sources of pollution.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/2026)

Abundant Housing LA
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
American Planning Association, California Chapter
Build Up California - Early Learning and Care Facilities

California Chamber of Commerce
California State Association of Counties
California Yimby
Child Action, INC.
Children Now
Circulate San Diego
City of Fairfield
Community Resources for Children
Fairfield; City of
Fieldstead and Company, INC.
First 5 Association of California
Greenbelt Alliance
Housing Action Coalition
Le Petit Elephant
League of California Cities
Low Income Investment Fund
Napa County Supervisor Anne Cottrell
Napa County Supervisor Liz Alessio
Rural County Representatives of California
San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association
Spur
The Two Hundred
Urban Counties of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/2026)

None received

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/25/26 17:23:03

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 329
Author: Blakespear (D) and Umberg (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 3/26/25
AYES: Menjivar, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/29/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Limón, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Alcohol and drug recovery or treatment facilities: investigations

SOURCE: League of California Cities

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to meet specified timeframes for assigning complaints against, and completing investigations for, licensed adult residential alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment facilities and certified alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs. Requires DHCS to post on its website an annual report of the investigations conducted in the previous year.

Assembly Amendments add DHCS-certified AOD programs to meet the investigation timeframe requirements in this bill; extend the timeframe by which investigations must be complete; and, add the website reporting requirement.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Grants sole authority in the state to DHCS to certify AOD programs and to license adult residential alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment facilities (RTFs). [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §11832, 11834.01]

2) Requires DHCS to conduct onsite program compliance visits for AOD programs and RTFs at least once during the certification or licensure period. Permits DHCS to conduct announced or unannounced site visits to review for compliance. [HSC §11832.12, 11834.01]

3) Establishes a system whereby DHCS approves certifying organizations (COs) that administer the certification process for substance use disorder (SUD) counselors. Requires DHCS to investigate alleged violations against registered or certified SUD counselors within 90 days of receipt of a requested investigation, and to send a written order to the CO specifying what corrective action to take based on DHCS's investigation and the severity of the violation. [9 California Code of Regulations (CCR) §13040, §13065]

This bill:

1) Requires DHCS to conduct an investigation into a complaint regarding an AOD program or RTF, if it has jurisdiction over the complaint, by assigning it to an analyst for investigation within 10 days of receiving the complaint.

2) Requires DHCS, if it receives a complaint that does not fall under its jurisdiction, to notify the complainant, to the extent feasible, in writing, including through electronic means, that it does not investigate that type of complaint.

3) Requires DHCS to complete the investigation within 120 days of assigning the complaint unless it requires assistance from local or other state agencies to complete the investigation, or significant additional resources to complete the investigation, as it determines.

4) Requires DHCS to maintain a record of investigations, including those that are not complete within 120 days.

5) Requires DHCS, commencing on July 1, 2027, and each July 1 thereafter, to post on its website an annual report of the investigations conducted in the previous year that includes all of the following information:

   a) The total number of investigations conducted by DHCS;

   b) The type of investigations conducted; and,

   c) The number of investigations that were not complete within 120 days of assignment.

6) Permits DHCS to impose a single fee increase for the certification of AOD programs and the licensure of RTFs commensurate with the reasonable cost of preparing and maintaining the report required in this bill.

Background

CSA report. Issued in October 2024, the CSA report states complaints may arise from various sources, including RTF residents, neighbors, staff members, or government agencies. According to internal guidelines, DHCS prioritizes death investigations over investigations into all other types of complaints. The CSA states, in fact, DHCS aims to assign death investigations to a staff member on the day it receives the report of a death. In the course of a death investigation, it directs its staff to perform a complete review of the facility where the death occurred to determine whether the resident's death was related to deficiencies in the facility's operation. DHCS also receives and investigates complaints about facilities that operate without a license—for which generally DHCS does not have oversight. If an investigation finds, however, that an unlicensed facility is providing or advertising services that require a license, DHCS notifies the facility that it has been violating the law. If it obtains sufficient evidence the facility has not stopped providing the services in question, DHCS is authorized in current law to bring a civil action against the facility. For a licensed RTF, if during a complaint investigation or compliance inspection, DHCS finds a facility poses serious risks to the health and safety of residents, it may initiate a license suspension or revocation. Current law authorizes DHCS to immediately suspend a license when these concerns are present. A suspension stays in effect until DHCS makes a final determination, which may include revocation, following a hearing and a proposed decision by an Administrative Law Judge.

The CSA made a series of recommendations, without specifying timeframes for completion, to help DHCS improve its complaints processes—mostly through administrative means:

a) Provide management with information about the timeliness of compliance inspections;

b) Implement a mechanism in its licensing database that notifies staff of the dates for upcoming compliance inspections for their caseload so they can plan accordingly;

c) Fill its vacant positions;

d) Update its policies and staff training by April 2025 to ensure it assigns complaints to analysts for investigation within 10 days, as currently required by its regulations;

e) Implement guidelines by October 2025 that specify the length of time analysts should take to complete key steps in the investigation process for different types of investigations;

f) Conduct site visits beginning December 2024 in all instances in which there is an allegation that an unlicensed facility is advertising or providing treatment services without a license; and,

g) Develop and implement, by April 2025, a follow-up procedure, such as performing another site visit, to confirm unlicensed facilities have ceased providing services unlawfully.

The CSA notes that, except for recommendation d) above, DHCS has yet to fully implement its suggested improvements.

DHCS complaint investigations. DHCS informally outlined its process following a Committee staff inquiry that generally mirrors the timelines stated by the author of this bill and in the CSA report. If DHCS establishes jurisdiction, the complaint is logged, assigned a complaint number, and a high-, medium-, or low-level designation. When DHCS receives a complaint that does not fall under its jurisdiction, a letter is sent to the complainant informing them of this fact. DHCS regulations define deficiencies, determined during the investigation, in the following way:

a) A Class A deficiency is any presenting an imminent danger to any resident of the RTF. "Imminent danger" means that the more likely consequence of the deficiency is death or physical injury that would render a part of the body functionally useless or temporarily or permanently reduced in capacity, or inhibit any function of the body to such a degree as to shorten life or to reduce physical or mental capacity;

b) A Class B deficiency is any relating to the operation or maintenance of the RTF that has a direct or immediate relationship to the physical health, mental health, or safety of RTF residents; and,

c) A Class C deficiency is any relating to the operation or maintenance of the RTF that DHCS determines has only a minimal relationship to the health or safety of residents.

An investigation report is issued, outlining whether an allegation was substantiated, and if any additional findings were discovered. If any deficiencies are identified and substantiated, RTFs may be subject to a corrective action plan or verification of correction and civil penalties for failure to respond timely to a Notice of Deficiency. Deficiencies can also result in action to suspend or revoke the RTF's license. If no deficiencies are found, the complaint report is issued with allegations marked as "not substantiated."

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

> Good government means acting quickly and decisively to protect the health and safety of the community. If an RFT is not following state regulations and jeopardizing its residents or neighbors, the state should act promptly. This bill requires DHCS to investigate complaints in a timely fashion, which is crucial for protecting RTF residents, and ensure RTFs take appropriate corrective actions based on identified problems. DHCS has 980 licensed RTFs for which common complaints include sexual misconduct, poor management of medications for residents, insufficient detoxification checks, using unlicensed counselors, and failing to provide services advertised. Currently, DHCS's internal guidelines call for assigning complaints to staff within 10 days and for investigations to be completed and sent to a supervisor within 30 to 60 days, depending on the nature of the complaint. For complaints not assigned within 10 days, however, DHCS often takes an average of 183 days, according to a recent California State Auditor (CSA)

report. Furthermore, DHCS takes nearly a year, on average, to complete investigations into low- and medium-priority complaints, per the audit. By setting timelines for investigations in statute, this bill ensures that complaints for RTFs are methodically and expeditiously pursued.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill results in minor and absorbable costs to DHCS.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

League of California Cities (source)
Advocates for Responsible Treatment
Association of California Cities – Orange County
California Behavioral Health Association
California State Association of Psychiatrists
Capo Cares
City of Anaheim
City of Beverly Hills
City of Buena Park
City of Camarillo
City of Carlsbad
City of Clovis
City of Fountain Valley
City of Garden Grove
City of Glendale
City of Huntington Beach
City of Irvine
City of La Habra
City of Laguna Niguel
City of Lake Forest
City of Lathrop
City of Los Alamitos
City of Manteca
City of Mission Viejo
City of Newport Beach
City of Oceanside
City of Paramount
City of Simi Valley
City of Stanton

City of Thousand Oaks
City of Villa Park
County of Orange Board of Supervisors
Seven individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The League of California Cities, sponsor of this bill, and other supporters argue while existing law requires DHCS to investigate complaints against RTFs, it does not establish timelines for completing those investigations. This bill sets clear, reasonable deadlines—aligned with existing DHCS policy—to enhance public transparency and ensure providers are held accountable for delivering high-quality treatment and care. Supporters argue the lack of oversight, regulation, and licensing results in unsafe conditions for patients and creates significant negative impacts on local neighbors, and also state that it is time for DHCS to hire more analysts to achieve this.

Prepared by: Reyes Diaz / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 13:33:30

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 490
Author: Umberg (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-0, 1/14/26
AYES: Menjivar, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove, Limón

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 1/22/26
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 1/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Alcohol and drug programs

SOURCE: League of California Cities

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to take specified action when it determines an entity is providing residential alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment services without a proper license, including conducting site visits, as well as initiating and completing investigations within specified timeframes; and, (2) permits county behavioral health agencies that administer the Drug Medi-Cal organized delivery system to request DHCS approval to conduct site visits to specified recovery residences (RRs).

Assembly Amendments extend the timeframe by which DHCS must complete an investigation; specify that county behavioral health agencies are permitted to visit RRs with which they contract; and, extend the date by which entities licensed or certified by DHCS must report money transfers between them and an RR.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Grants sole authority in the state to DHCS to certify alcohol or other drug (AOD) programs and to license adult residential alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment facilities (RTFs). [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §11832, 11834.01]

2) Requires DHCS to conduct onsite program compliance visits for AOD programs and RTFs at least once during the certification or licensure period. Permits DHCS to conduct announced or unannounced site visits to review for compliance. [HSC §11832.12, 11834.01]

3) Requires all programs certified, or RTFs licensed by DHCS, to disclose if any of its agents, partners, directors, officers, or owners, including a sole proprietor and member, has either of the following:
   a) Ownership or control of, or financial interest in, a recovery residence/sober living homes (RR/SLHs); or,
   b) Any contractual relationship with an entity that regularly provides professional services or substance use disorder (SUD) treatment or recovery services to clients of programs certified or facilities licensed by DHCS, if the entity is not part of the program certified or facility licensed. [HSC §11833.05(a)]

4) Permits DHCS to suspend or revoke an AOD program certification or RTF license for failing to disclose the information required in 3) above of existing law. [HSC 11833.05(c)]

5) Prohibits a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or local governmental entity from operating, establishing, managing, conducting, or maintaining an RTF to provide recovery, treatment, or detoxification services within this state without first obtaining a current valid license from DHCS. [HSC §11834.30]

6) Requires a laboratory or certified outpatient treatment program that leases, manages, or owns housing units that are offered to individuals who concurrently utilize laboratory or outpatient services to maintain separate contracts for the housing. Requires a RTF to only offer an individual discounted housing following discharge from the facility if certain conditions are met, such as the RTF and the individual enter into a written contract for housing that is separate from the contract for treatment; if the individual also pursues outpatient treatment; or, the offer for housing is not dependent upon the individual's agreement to attend outpatient treatment at a program that is owned or operated by the RTF. [HSC §11831.65]

7) Requires DHCS to conduct a site visit to investigate an allegation of an entity operating without a valid RTF license. Requires DHCS to take the following actions if evidence substantiates that the entity is providing RTF services without a license:
   a) Submit the findings of the investigation;
   b) Issue a written notice to the entity stating that it is operating in violation DHCS's licensing law and inform them of the date by which it ceases providing services and notice that DHCS will assess a civil penalty of $2,000 per day for every day they continue to provide services beyond the date specified in the notice;
   c) Notice that the case will be referred for civil proceedings in the event the entity continues to provide services beyond the date specified in the notice; and,
   d) Inform the entity of the licensing requirements. [HSC §11834.31]

8) Prohibits an entity found to be in violation of DHCS's licensing law from applying for initial RTF licensure for a period of five years from the date of the notice specified. [HSC §11834.31]

9) Permits DHCS's Director to suspend or revoke certification or licensure, including other AOD program certifications or RTF licenses held by the same person or entity, or to deny an application for certification or licensure; extension of the certification or license; or, modification to certification or a license, upon specified violations and circumstances. [HSC §11832.14, 11834.36]

10) Requires DHCS to continue to implement the Drug Medi-Cal organized delivery system (DMC-ODS) program previously authorized under the California Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration pilot. Requires election by counties to

participate in the DMC-ODS to be considered voluntary. [Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §14184.401]

This bill:

1) Requires DHCS, if it takes action against an RR/SLH for providing treatment services without a valid license, to conduct a site visit of a certified AOD program or licensed RTF that has disclosed an interest in that RR/SLH.

2) Requires all AOD programs and RTFs, no later than July 15, 2027, and every July 15 thereafter, to report to DHCS all money transfers between them and their affiliated RR/SLHs. Requires DHCS to analyze transfer data for compliance trends, irregularities, or fraud indicators, and to develop guidelines for permissible and impermissible transfers.

3) Requires DHCS, if a facility is alleged to be operating as an RTF without a valid license, to conduct a site visit as follows:
   a) Initiate an investigation of the allegation, if DHCS has jurisdiction, within 10 days of receiving the allegation and to conduct a site visit;
   b) Notify the complainant in writing, to the extent feasible, if DHCS does not have jurisdiction, that it does not investigate those types of complaints;
   c) Complete the investigation within 120 days of the initiation of the investigation, unless DHCS requires assistance from other state agencies, or additional resources to complete the investigation, as DHCS determines; and,
   d) Notify the complainant in writing, including through electronic means, of the reason for the delay if DHCS is unable to complete the investigation within 120 days.

4) Expands the required actions for DHCS to take, when it conducts a site visit to investigate allegations of operating without a valid RTF license, to provide the entity the notice within 10 days of the DHCS employee submitting their findings, and to conduct a follow-up site visit to determine whether the entity has ceased providing services by the date DHCS specified.

5) Permits county behavioral health agencies, if they elect to administer the DMC-ODS and provide optional recovery housing services, to request approval from DHCS to conduct a site visit of a RR/SLH, with which it contracts, that is alleged to be in violation of licensing law. Permits DHCS to approve the request if it has sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation and it fails to

initiate or conclude the investigation in accordance with the time limits imposed by this bill.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

> The proliferation of RR/SLHs and SUD treatment facilities, particularly in Southern California's "Rehab Riviera," has raised concerns regarding the quality of care and regulatory oversight. These concerns were confirmed by a recent State Auditor's report, which found that DHCS does not always provide timely or thorough oversight, risking the health and safety of people in recovery. This bill will ameliorate these perpetuated issues by establishing timelines for DHCS to investigate allegations of licensed treatment being offered at unlicensed RR/SLHs. If DHCS cannot meet the timelines, SB 490 would authorize cities and counties to request approval to conduct site visits and enforce compliance with existing state licensing requirements.

Background

California State Auditor (CSA) report. Issued in October 2024, the CSA Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facilities report stated complaints to DHCS may arise from various sources, including RTF residents, neighbors, staff members, or government agencies. According to internal guidelines, DHCS prioritizes death investigations over investigations into all other types of complaints. The CSA stated, in fact, DHCS aims to assign death investigations to a staff member on the day it receives the report of a death. In the course of a death investigation, it directs its staff to perform a complete review of the facility where the death occurred to determine whether the resident's death was related to deficiencies in the facility's operation. DHCS also receives and investigates complaints about facilities that operate without a license—for which generally DHCS does not have oversight. If an investigation finds, however, that an unlicensed facility is providing or advertising services that require a license, DHCS notifies the facility that it has been violating the law. If it obtains sufficient evidence the facility has not stopped providing the services in question, DHCS is authorized in current law to bring a civil action against the facility. For a licensed RTF, if during a complaint investigation or compliance inspection, DHCS finds a facility poses serious risks to the health and safety of residents, it may initiate a license suspension or revocation. Current law authorizes DHCS to immediately suspend a license when these concerns are present. A suspension stays in effect until DHCS makes a final determination,

which may include revocation, following a hearing and a proposed decision by an Administrative Law Judge.

The CSA made a series of recommendations to help DHCS improve its complaints processes—mostly through administrative means:

- Provide management with information about the timeliness of compliance inspections;
- Implement a mechanism in its licensing database that notifies staff of the dates for upcoming compliance inspections for their caseload so they can plan accordingly;
- Fill its vacant positions;
- Update its policies and staff training by April 2025 to ensure it assigns complaints to analysts for investigation within 10 days, as currently required by its regulations;
- Implement guidelines by October 2025 that specify the length of time analysts should take to complete key steps in the investigation process for different types of investigations;
- Conduct site visits beginning December 2024 in all instances in which there is an allegation that an unlicensed facility is advertising or providing treatment services without a license; and,
- Develop and implement, by April 2025, a follow-up procedure, such as performing another site visit, to confirm unlicensed facilities have ceased providing services unlawfully.

DHCS complaints investigations. DHCS informally outlined its process for RTF investigations that generally mirrors the timelines stated by the author of this bill and in the CSA report. If DHCS establishes jurisdiction, the complaint is logged, assigned a complaint number, and a high-, medium-, or low-level designation. When DHCS receives a complaint that does not fall under its jurisdiction, a letter is sent to the complainant informing them of this fact. DHCS regulations define deficiencies, determined during the investigation, in the following way:

- A Class A deficiency is any presenting an imminent danger to any resident of a RTF. “Imminent danger” means that the more likely consequence of the deficiency is death or physical injury that would render a part of the body functionally useless or temporarily or permanently reduced in capacity, or inhibit any function of the body to such a degree as to shorten life or to reduce physical or mental capacity;
- A Class B deficiency is any relating to the operation or maintenance of the RTF that has a direct or immediate relationship to the physical health, mental health, or safety of RTF residents; and,

- A Class C deficiency is any relating to the operation or maintenance of the RTF that DHCS determines has only a minimal relationship to the health or safety of residents.

An investigation report is issued, outlining whether an allegation was substantiated, and if any additional findings were discovered. If any deficiencies are identified and substantiated, RTFs may be subject to a corrective action plan or verification of correction and civil penalties for failure to respond timely to a Notice of Deficiency. Deficiencies can also result in suspension or revocation of the RTF's license. If no deficiencies are found, the complaint report is issued with allegations marked as "not substantiated."

DHCS further noted that allegations of an entity unlawfully providing treatment services is assigned a high priority. They follow the same process for these allegations as they do for other high priority complaints against the facilities under their purview. However, when it comes to conducting a site visit, the facility can technically deny them access. In these situations, DHCS requires the assistance from the California Department of Justice in obtaining an investigation warrant but only if they have enough evidence to support the allegation. If DHCS determines the facility is in violation, they issue the notices authorized in existing law regarding the violations, penalties that can be assessed, and a date by which the facility is required to cease providing treatment services. If the facility continues to operate beyond the date, DHCS goes to the Superior Court to get an injunction.

Group Home Technical Advisory (GHTA). The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division of Housing Policy Development issued the GHTA in December 2022 and states that group homes are an especially important type of housing for persons with disabilities. By supporting their residents' individualized needs while providing flexible and affordable housing options, group homes help persons with disabilities live in deinstitutionalized settings that facilitate their integration into local communities. HCD further states in recent years, some local governments have amended their zoning ordinances to add new regulations for group homes, particularly for SLH/RRs. These amendments have raised concerns that local governments are not complying with their affirmative obligations under state planning and zoning laws to promote more inclusive communities and affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH). These amendments have also generated disputes and confusion over whether local governments are violating fair housing laws by discriminating against persons with disabilities or other protected characteristics. Among other concerns, local land use policies and practices can block new group homes from opening, force existing ones to close, and impose costs, legal fees, and administrative burdens that make it

difficult for group homes to operate. These concerns arise in the context of a shortage of adequate housing for persons with disabilities, which is a particularly acute problem within California's broader housing crisis. HCD states that with concerns, disputes, and confusion continuing to grow, the GHTA provides guidance on how state planning, zoning, and fair housing laws apply when local governments attempt to regulate group homes through land use policies and practices. It is designed to help local governments comply with their obligations under these state laws, including, for example, the Planning and Zoning Law; Housing Element Law; AFFH provisions; Anti-Discrimination in Land Use Law; and the Fair Employment and Housing Act, collectively "state housing laws." Taken from the GHTA, local governments can comply with state housing laws regarding group homes, including the following:

a) Discriminatory Purpose or Effect. Ensure that the policy or practice does not discriminate on the basis of disability or other characteristics protected by state law. Apply the GHTA's analysis on how to determine if a policy or practice has a discriminatory purpose or effect and how to implement flexible reasonable accommodation procedures that promptly and efficiently resolve accommodation requests in compliance with state housing laws and regulations. (pp. 12-20);
b) Supportive and Transitional Housing. Comply with the specific protections for group homes that fall within the definitions of supportive or transitional housing (pp. 20-22);
c) State and Federal Law Distinctions. Confirm that a policy or practice complies with state housing laws even if it complies with federal law, because California law provides broader and different protections than federal law (pp. 22-23);
d) Definition of Single-Family Residence. Avoid restrictive definitions of single housekeeping units or single-family homes that impermissibly constrain group homes from locating in single-family zones. This includes, for example, avoiding definitions that equate group homes with boardinghouses, require all residents to share a common deed or lease, overly scrutinize residents' living arrangements, or automatically exclude group homes that are owned by for-profit businesses or pay staff to help manage a home's operations (pp. 24-25);
e) Group Homes that Do Not Provide Licensable Services. Allow group homes that operate as single-family residences and that do not provide licensable services to locate in single-family neighborhoods, subject only to the generally applicable, nondiscriminatory health, safety, and zoning laws that apply to all single-family residences (pp. 25-26) (emphasis added); and,

f) Other Requirements for Group Home Operators and Residents. Avoid the other examples of special requirements for operators and residents discussed that can overly constrain group homes, conflict with the duty to affirmatively support this housing, and discriminate on the basis of disability and other protected characteristics. Examples discussed include, among other things, parking requirements, restrictions on residents or staff, neighborhood notice requirements, and local law enforcement registration requirements (pp. 30-33).

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) DHCS estimates costs of $1.2 million in fiscal year (FY) 2027-28, and $1.1 million in FY 2028-29 and ongoing (Residential Outpatient Program Licensing Fund); and,

2) DHCS notes it would need to increase licensing fees to implement the bill. DHCS was authorized to increase licensing fees up to 20% annually through FY 2026-27, to reach a cumulative fee increase of 75%. Additionally, DHCS states that no sooner than July 1, 2027, DHCS is authorized to increase licensing fees up to 5% annually and if DHCS proposes to increase fees beyond 5%, the increase would need to be approved by the Legislature. To support the additional staffing needed to implement this bill, DHCS states it would need to increase licensing fees by an additional 5% in FY 2027-28. DHCS states that, if the Legislature does not approve an increase in fees, DHCS will be unable to implement the requirements of this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

League of California Cities (source)
Association of California Cities – Orange County
Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
California Association of Health Plans
City of Beverly Hills
City of Buena Park
City of Brea
City of Carlsbard
City of Garden Grove
City of Irvine
City of La Mesa

City of Lake Forest
City of Los Alamitos
City of Mission Viejo
City of Paramount
City of Placentia
City of Rocklin
City of Stanton
City of Thousand Oaks
City of Vacaville

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Behavioral Health Association
California Behavioral Health Planning Council
County Behavioral Health Directors Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The League of California Cities (Cal Cities), as sponsor, argues a recent state audit revealed DHCS has not consistently investigated allegations of unlicensed facilities providing or advertising treatment services. DHCS has often failed to conduct site visits and follow-ups to ensure illegal operations have stopped. In one example highlighted in the audit, DHCS substantiated an allegation that an unlicensed facility was unlawfully providing services but there was no indication DHCS followed up to verify the facility's claims it ceased operations, nor did it conduct a site visit to confirm compliance. Cal Cities argues the auditor recommended that DHCS improve the timeliness of inspections and complaint investigations; conduct more site visits; and establish follow-up procedures to ensure unlicensed facilities cease unlawful operations. Cal Cities states this bill empowers local governments to partner with the state to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws. This collaboration allows the state to leverage local capacity to respond swiftly to violations, ensure compliance, and better protect public health and safety.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) states that as part of their core functions they provide an array of Medi-Cal SUD treatment services, including supportive RR/SLHs, which are non-medical housing settings designed to support recovery and foster community, as a component of the SUD continuum of care. CBHDA argues this bill stems from continued negative stigma around RR/SLHs, and at its core contains a fundamental framing issue as it relates to RR/SLHs and SUD treatment. CBHDA further argues while DHCS is already tasked with these investigations, the timelines proposed in this bill would lead to DHCS potentially exceeding its

bandwidth and then delegating this function to counties, which would include conducting investigations into private entities that counties do not contract with, nor have jurisdiction over. Delegating this responsibility to counties represents a significant liability risk, and a potential unfunded workload increase for county behavioral health agencies. The California Behavioral Health Association states their concern about this bill's framing risks further stigmatizing RRs that do not provide licensable services, citing state housing guidance recognizing the importance of group homes and RRs as housing options for persons with disabilities and notes that homes not providing licensable services must be allowed to operate subject to generally applicable nondiscriminatory laws. Any policy response to bad actors should be narrowly tailored to unlawful treatment activity and financial misconduct, not structured in a way that sweeps in lawful RR arrangements or creates new barriers for RRs. The California Behavioral Health Planning Council states that the outlined mandates in the bill are outside the purview of county behavioral health departments considering counties do not have authority, oversight, or code enforcement jurisdiction over unlicensed facilities. This would require counties to provide training to designated teams without sufficient funding or guidance.

Prepared by: Reyes Diaz / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 18:35:47

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 505
Author: Richardson (D)
Amended: 6/22/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BANKING & F.I. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 1/7/26
AYES: Grayson, Niello, Cervantes, Richardson, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado, Limón

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0, 1/27/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 8/17/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Money Transmission Act: authentication

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a money transmitter from allowing a user to log in without using two-factor or multifactor authentication.

Assembly Amendments clarify the scope of persons subject to the bill and provide greater flexibility in how a money transmitter may comply with the bill.

ANALYSIS: Existing federal law:

Pursuant to Regulation E (12 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1005) which implements the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693 et seq.):

1) Defines “unauthorized electronic fund transfer” to mean an electronic fund transfer from a consumer's account initiated by a person other than the consumer without actual authority to initiate the transfer and from which the consumer receives no benefit. (12 CFR 1005.2(m))

2) Limits a consumer’s liability related to unauthorized electronic fund transfers to $50 if the consumer notifies the financial institution within two days after learning of the loss or $500 if the consumer fails to notify within two days, as specified. (12 CFR 1005.6(b))

3) Provides procedures for resolving errors, including unauthorized electronic fund transfers, including time limits for a financial institution to investigate claims. (12 CFR 1005.11)

Existing state law:

1) Provides the Money Transmission Act, administered by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI), which requires licensure of persons engaged in the business of money transmission, unless the person is exempt. (Financial Code Section 2000 et seq.)

2) Defines “money transmission” as any of the following: selling or issuing payment instruments, selling or issuing stored value, or receiving money for transmission. (Financial Code Section 2003(q))

3) Defines a “payment instrument” as a check, draft, money order, traveler’s check, or other instrument for the transmission or payment of money or monetary value, whether or not negotiable and provides that a “payment instrument” does not include a credit card voucher, letter of credit, or any instrument that is redeemable by the issuer for goods or services provided by the issuer or its affiliate. (Financial Code Section 2003(s))

4) Defines “stored value” as monetary value representing a claim against the issuer that is stored on an electronic or digital medium and evidenced by an electronic or digital record, and that is intended and accepted for use as a means of redemption for money or monetary value or payment for goods or services. Provides that “stored value” does not include a credit card voucher, letter of credit, or any stored value that is redeemable by the issuer for goods or services provided by the issuer or its affiliate, except to the extent required by applicable law to be redeemable in cash for its cash value. (Financial Code Section 2003(x))

This bill:

1) Prohibits, as of January 1, 2028, a money transmitter from allowing a user login without implementing all of the following:

   a) Two-factor authentication, multifactor authentication, or other reasonably equivalent or more secure access control.

   b) A process for reverifying the identity of the user, device, or system.

   c) The ability for a user to report an error or suspected fraud, as specified.

2) Defines "two-factor authentication" to mean a security process that requires two distinct forms of verification.

3) Defines "multifactor authentication" to mean an authentication process that requires two or more forms of verification.

4) Defines "user login" to mean an action by which a user accesses an account or platform for the purpose of initiating, received, or managing money transmission for the first time or after a logout.

Comments

Background. This bill seeks to reduce the risk of fraud losses stemming from a relatively small subset of incidences – namely, losses stemming from the unauthorized access of a user's online account with a nonbank payments platform. Unauthorized access refers to an incident where someone other than the accountholder gains access to the account without authorization from the accountholder, such as when one's account is "hacked" or their payments card is stolen or forged. This bill does not cover any products provided by a bank or credit union, such as a checking account or debit card. This bill covers only state-licensed money transmitters. Examples of money transmitters include Western Union, PayPal, and Block (provider of the Square and CashApp payments platforms).

Notably, accountholders already benefit from protections from losses related to unauthorized account access under the federal Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA). An accountholder who notifies their financial institution within two days of discovering a loss related to unauthorized access is liable up to $50 for the loss, with the financial institution liable for any amount exceeding $50. Despite this protection, many accountholders may be unaware of their obligation to report the loss within specified timelines, which may result in the accountholder bearing a

higher loss.[1] Additionally, the accountholder may be unable to access the stolen funds temporarily as their financial institution investigates the alleged incident. Inarguably, the accountholder would be better off if the unauthorized access never occurred in the first place, but EFTA provides a meaningful safety net for accountholders in cases of unauthorized account access.

Due to the liability associated with unauthorized account access, financial institutions employ various security methods to protect against unauthorized access. Many (if not all) financial institutions that offer online access to financial products or services require the accountholder to provide a username and password to access the online platform. In addition to a username and password, many institutions require another form of authentication, particularly when a user enters the username and password using an electronic device that is not already associated with the account. Additionally, some financial institutions require additional authentication when a user initiates certain types of higher-risk transactions within the online platform, such as person-to-person payments which have been subject to growing rates of fraud in recent years. This bill seeks to mandate that an accountholder provide at least two forms of authentication each time the accountholder logs into the online platform.

Multifactor authentication can reduce the frequency of unauthorized account access, but it does not eliminate the risk. Some forms of multifactor authentication rely on sending a one-time access code to an accountholder's phone or email address. Yet this form of authentication provides little additional security benefit if the unauthorized person has already compromised the accountholder's digital electronic device, phone number, or email account. Moreover, many types of frauds and scams do not rely on gaining access directly to a victim's account; rather, the criminal attempts to fraudulently induce the victim into initiating funds transfers under false pretenses. Multifactor authentication does little, if anything, to prevent this large and growing area of financial vulnerability.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, minor and absorbable costs to the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) for education and enforcement.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/17/26)

[1] The specific contours of accountholder liability under EFTA are beyond the scope of this analysis, but suffice it to say, an accountholder may incur liability of up to $500 in cases where reporting to the financial institution does not occur within two days of the accountholder gaining knowledge of the loss(es).

California Cyber Alliance
Rise Economy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/17/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to Rise Economy, "SB 505 strikes a thoughtful balance between innovation and consumer protection. It supports a more secure financial ecosystem while ensuring that Californians can continue to benefit from convenient digital payment options without unnecessary risk. The bill also provides ample time for implementation, giving businesses the opportunity to comply in a responsible and effective manner."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 8/17/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Bryan, Hart, Wicks

Prepared by: Michael Burdick / B. & F.I. /
8/17/26 15:32:31

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 549
Author: Allen (D), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

PRIOR SENATE VOTES NOT RELEVANT PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 29.10(d)

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Heritage schools: enrollment and notice

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill (1) authorizes heritage schools to serve children who are enrolled in transitional kindergarten (TK), effectively serving children who are at least 4 years old, instead of children who are at least 4 years and 9 months of age, and (2) requires heritage schools to provide notice to a child's parent or guardian stating that the California Department of Education (CDE) has no regulatory authority over heritage schools and does not monitor heritage school operations or instruction.

Assembly Amendments replace the contents of the version of the bill amended June 23, 2025 to instead authorize heritage schools to serve children who are 4 years old, instead of 4 years and 9 months old, and requires heritage schools to provide notice to a child's parent or guardian, as specified. The amendments also add language to avoid chaptering out issues with a section amended by this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law, effective January 1, 2027:

1) Defines a "heritage school" as a school that serves children who are at least 4 years and 9 months of age and no older than 18 years of age; who attend a public or private full-time day school; that maintains membership in a state or national cultural or language association; has regular hours of operation; does not operate out of a residential home; maintains in its possession a copy of the registration form electronically filed with the Education Commissioner; and which offers all of the following:

    a) Education or academic tutoring, or both, in a world language.

    b) Education on the culture, traditions, or history of a country other than the United States (U.S.).

    c) Culturally enriching activities, including but not limited to, art, dancing, games, or singing, based on the culture or customs of a country other than the U.S. (Education Code (EC) § 33195.4)

2) Requires a person, firm, association, partnership, or corporation operating a heritage school to file an electronic registration form with the Education Commissioner annually in January, including the following information for that current year:

    a) All names, whether real or fictitious, of the person, firm, association, partnership, or corporation under which it has done or is doing business.

    b) Address and telephone number of the heritage school.

    c) Names and addresses of the directors and principal officers of the person, firm, association, partnership, or corporation.

    d) School enrollment by grade span, number of teachers, and whether the school is coeducational or limited to boys or girls.

    e) Assurances that records of the courses of study offered and the names, addresses, and qualifications of faculty members are maintained at the school and are true and accurate.

    f) A criminal record summary for every employee.

    g) An acknowledgement that the director and all employees are mandated reporters. (EC § 33195)

3) Prohibits the heritage school from expressing that the filing of the registration form represents that the State of California, the Education Commissioner, the

State Board of Education (SBE), the CDE, or an accrediting agency has made an evaluation, recognition, approval, or endorsement of the school or course, unless this is an actual fact. (EC § 33195)

4) Specifies that the filing of the registration form does not grant a heritage school a right to receive state funding. (EC § 33195)

5) Prohibits a heritage school from employing a person who would be prohibited from employment by a public school district because of their conviction for any crime. (EC § 33195.1)

6) Requires the employees of an entity that has a contract with a heritage school that may have contact with students to submit or have submitted their fingerprints to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and prohibits those employees to come in contact with students until the DOJ has ascertained that the employee has not been convicted of a felony. (EC § 33195.2)

7) Establishes the Heritage Enrichment Resource Fund in the State Treasury, funded through registration fees for heritage schools, and authorizes the Education Commissioner to expend funds, upon appropriation, to process payments for the registration of heritage schools. (EC § 33195.5)

8) Requires the director of a heritage school to undergo at least 15 hours of health and safety training, including but not limited to the following topics: pediatric first aid, prevention of infectious diseases and immunizations, prevention of childhood injuries, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). (EC § 33195.6)

9) Requires all employees and volunteers of a heritage school to be in good health, as verified by a health screening, including a test for tuberculosis; and requires students attending a heritage school to have access to working sinks, toilets, and drinking water; and not to have access to medication or cleaning supplies. (EC § 33195.6)

10) Requires a heritage school to not be subject to licensure by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and requires a heritage school to notify the parent or guardian upon the enrollment of their child that the heritage school is exempt from child care licensure and that attendance at a heritage school does not satisfy California's compulsory education requirements. (EC § 33195.6)

11) Defines "transitional kindergarten" as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (EC § 48000)

12) Requires that a child be admitted to a kindergarten maintained by the school district at the beginning of a school year if the child will have their fifth birthday by September 1 of the school year. (EC § 48000)

13) Requires a school district or charter school, as a condition of receipt of apportionment for pupils in a TK program, ensure that a child who will have their fourth birthday by September 1 to be admitted to a TK program maintained by the school district or charter school. (EC § 48000)

14) Requires, commencing with the 2025-26 school year, to maintain an average of at least one adult for every 10 pupils for TK classrooms. (EC § 48000)

15) Requires each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years old to be subject to compulsory full-time education, unless specifically exempted. (EC § 48200)

This bill:

1) Authorizes heritage schools to serve students who are enrolled in TK, in addition to children who are enrolled in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

2) Requires heritage schools to provide a notice to the pupil's parent or guardian stating that CDE has no regulatory authority over heritage schools and does not monitor heritage school operations or instruction.

3) Makes technical and clarifying changes, including chaptering out changes.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "In 2021, California created universal transitional kindergarten (TK) so that all four-year-olds have access to free public TK. That commitment was pivotal in expanding access to early learning for children. Now that more four-year-olds are attending school, families must adjust their childcare plans for the gaps that may exist until a parent or guardian is available to pick them up, since the school day may not match work schedules."

The author continues, "Existing law establishes Heritage Schools as out-of-school programs that offer additional learning opportunities and activities based on a particular culture and language. However, existing law also establishes the minimum age to attend these schools at four years and nine months old. With the establishment of universal TK, this law has not been updated to recognize the need for after-school programs for TK students. This bill will allow TK students to attend Heritage Schools and benefit from their after-school programming, while giving families another option for childcare."

What are heritage schools? Existing law defines a heritage school as a school that serves children who are at least 4 years and 9 months of age and no older than 18 years of age and who also attend a public or private full-time day school. Heritage schools do not satisfy the state's compulsory education requirements and therefore operate outside of compulsory education to offer supplemental instruction in the culture, traditions, or history, and language of a country other than the U.S. Many heritage schools also offer before school or after school programs. Heritage schools must file an electronic registration form with the Education Commissioner beginning January 1, 2027 (and previously with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI)), and a list of heritage schools can be found on CDE's website.

CDE's database of heritage schools include programs ranging from those run by a Greek Orthodox church and a Chinese Baptist church, a Japanese language and cultural study program, a Hebrew school, and corporations that run before school and after school programs in many locations throughout the state. According to the registration data available from CDE from 2026, there are 1,011 heritage schools registered with CDE, with a total enrollment of 133,537 students, with 95% of these students enrolled in kindergarten through 6th grade and 5% in grades 7 to 12.

Heritage schools are not subject to state oversight—not from CDE nor CDSS. Consistent with existing law, CDE's website indicates that the Education Commissioner (formerly the SPI) nor CDE evaluates, approves, recognizes, accredits, nor endorses any heritage school. CDE does not monitor heritage school operations, instruction, or the data submitted on a heritage school's annual registration form. CDE's only role with heritage schools is to maintain the heritage school registration form and process, which heritage schools are required to submit annually. Similarly, heritage schools are exempt from childcare licensing, so CDSS has no responsibility to recognize or monitor these schools or programs.

That being said, existing law outlines several requirements and expectations for heritage schools. Heritage schools must comply with numerous health and safety provisions, including:

- The director and all employees and contractors having contact with students must have background checks and would not be prohibited from employment by a public school district because of their conviction for any crime.

- The director and all employees must be mandated reporters and have received the necessary training.

- The director must receive 15 hours of training in health and safety topics, including first aid, CPR, and injury prevention.

- All employees and volunteers must be in good health as verified by a health screening, including a test for tuberculosis.

- Students must have access to working sinks, toilets, and drinking water.

In addition, a building operated by a heritage school, like any other privately owned building, must comply with the requirements imposed by the county, city, and other agencies within whose jurisdiction the building is located, and such requirements include zoning, health and safety codes, fire codes, and other local ordinances.

TK is now available to all 4-year-olds. Though a child's attendance in kindergarten is not compulsory, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to offer kindergarten programs to age-eligible children, and existing law defines TK as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. However, not every school site in a district is required to offer TK.

According to a report by the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) titled "California's Universal Prekindergarten Implementation, 2024-25"—which was a year before full TK implementation—94% of LEAs responding to a survey reported offering TK, and 70% of these offered TK at all applicable school sites. LEAs may offer TK as a part-day or full-day program, and the report notes that 85% of LEAs offered a full-day TK option, and 88% offered expanded learning programs for TK students to provide care for out-of-school hours.

Existing law requires that an LEA, as a condition of receipt of apportionment, ensure that a child who will have their fourth birthday by September 1 to be eligible to be admitted to a TK program. In the 2025-26 school year, a total of 213,313 children were enrolled in TK statewide, up from 177,570 in the 2024-25 school year. The LPI reports that, in 2024-25, this represented 55% of the TK-eligible population. The overall uptake of TK has declined through the period of expansion of the program in recent years, which may be due to lack of awareness of TK, differing family preferences and needs, or potential barriers to enrollment.

Supervision of 4-year-old children. The National Association for the Education of Young Children's recommended adult-to-child ratio in child care programs for 4-year-olds is 1:10. In California, existing law requires that TK classes have staffing of one adult for every 10 students as of 2025-26, and similarly, existing law requires a school offering before or after school programming through the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program to maintain a staff-to-pupil ratio of 1:10 if they are working with pupils in TK or kindergarten. Current regulations for contractors operating a California State Preschool Program serving 4-year-old children must maintain an adult-to-child ratio of 1:8. The Legislature may wish to consider the fact that heritage schools have no mandated adult-to-child ratios for serving children as young as 4 years old as proposed in this bill.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

Beth Shir Shalom
Jewish California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 8/25/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo,

Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Elhawary, Flora, Lackey, McKinnor

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 19:54:56

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 561
Author: Blakespear (D), et al.
Amended: 7/2/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Stern, Valladares, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Appointment of public guardians

SOURCE: California State Association of Psychiatrists

DIGEST: This bill requires the public guardian of a county to acknowledge receipt of a referral for conservatorship or guardianship, to complete their investigation within a reasonable period of time, and to provide status updates of the investigation to the referring party upon request.

Assembly Amendments gutted and amended this bill to its current form.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes a court to appoint a conservator of the person or estate of an adult, or both, provided that the conservatorship is the least restrictive alternative necessary for the protection of the conservatee. (Probate (Prob.) Code, § 1800.3.)

2) Provides, subject to 1):

a) A conservator of the person may be appointed for a person who is unable to provide properly for their personal needs for physical health, food, clothing, or shelter, except as specified.

b) A conservator of the estate may be appointed for a person who is substantially unable to manage their own financial resources or resist fraud or undue influence, except as specified.

c) A conservator of the person and estate may be appointed if the person meets the criteria for both conservatorship types.

d) A limited conservator of the person or of the estate, or both, may be appointed for a developmentally disabled adult; a limited conservatorship may be utilized only as necessary to promote and protect the wellbeing of the individual, shall be designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence of the individual, and shall be ordered only to the extent necessitated by the individual's proven mental and adaptive limitations.

e) The standard of proof for the appointment of a conservator for any of the conservatorship types listed herein is clear and convincing evidence. (Prob. Code, § 1801.)

3) Provides for the establishment of a temporary conservatorship of the person, or the estate, or both, pending a decision on a petition for the appointment of a conservator. (Prob. Code, §§ 2250, 2250.2.)

4) Provides that, if any person domiciled in the county requires a guardian or conservator and there is no one else who is qualified and willing to act and whose appointment as guardian or conservator would be in the best interests of the person, either of the following applies:

a) The public guardian shall apply for appointment as guardian or conservator of the person, the estate, or both, if there is an imminent threat to the person's health or safety or the person's estate.

b) In all other cases, the public guardian may apply for appointment as guardian or conservator of the person, estate, or both. (Prob. Code, § 2920(a).)

5) Requires the public guardian to apply for appointment as guardian or conservator of the person, estate, or both, if the court so orders.

a) The court may make such an order upon motion of an interested person or on the court's own motion in a pending proceeding or in a proceeding commenced for that purpose.

b) The court shall order the public guardian to apply for appointment as guardian or conservator on behalf of any person domiciled in the county who appears to require a guardian or conservator if it appears that there is no one else who is qualified and willing to act, and if that appointment is in the best interests of the person; if, however, prior to the filing of the petition, it is discovered that there is someone else who is qualified and willing to serve, the public guardian shall be relieved of the duty under the court order.

c) The court shall not make such an order except after notice to the public guardian, as specified, consideration of the alternatives, and a determination that the appointment is necessary. (Prob. Code, § 2920(b).)

6) Requires the public guardian to begin an investigation as to whether a guardianship or conservatorship is necessary within two business days of receiving a referral for conservatorship or guardianship. (Prob. Code, § 2920(c).)

This bill:

1) Requires the public guardian to acknowledge receipt of an investigation referral.

2) Requires the public guardian to conclude a referral investigation within a reasonable period of time.

3) Provides that, when the public guardian investigates a referral for a conservatorship, the investigation must include a determination of whether or not a temporary or general conservatorship is warranted, and that the public guardian must inform the referring party of the status of the investigation upon request.

Comments

In California, if an adult is unable to manage their own personal or financial affairs, a court may appoint a conservator of the person, of the estate, or both, to assist the adult in managing those needs. When there is not a family member or other trusted adult to serve as the conservator, existing law authorizes the county

office of the public guardian to do so. Currently, anybody may refer an individual to the public guardian for a conservatorship, at which point the public guardian must conduct an investigation to determine whether it is appropriate to petition the court for a conservatorship.

This bill is intended to improve the conservatorship referral and investigation process. First, this bill requires the public guardian to acknowledge receipt of a conservatorship referral. Second, this bill requires the public guardian to complete its investigation within a reasonable period of time. Third, this bill requires the public guardian to include a determination of whether a temporary or general conservatorship is warranted. Fourth, this bill requires the public guardian to inform the referring party of the status of the conservatorship investigation upon request.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

> Minor reimbursable state-mandated local costs to county public guardian offices to acknowledge receipt of referrals, make the specified determination as part of investigations, and respond to status requests from referring parties, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates. These duties are administrative additions to the investigation existing law already requires, and any costs to an individual county are likely to be minor.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)[1]

California State Association of Psychiatrists (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California State Association of Psychiatrists:

> Under current law, a public guardian must begin an investigation within two business days of a referral, but there is no requirement that the investigation ever conclude, and no requirement to update the referring party. This can leave vulnerable adults like people with dementia, brain injury, or other cognitive impairments stuck in limbo for extended periods of time.

[1] Organizations that submitted support or opposition to the bill before it was gutted and amended are not listed.

SB 561 would require the public guardian to acknowledge receipt of a referral, begin the investigation within two business days as current law already requires, conclude that investigation within a reasonable time and reach a determination on whether conservatorship is warranted, and share status updates with the referring party upon request. These are common-sense safeguards that do not impose a rigid deadline or require disclosure of confidential records. Rather, they simply ensure cases get resolved and referring parties are not left in the dark.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/25/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: McKinnor

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/26/26 18:59:15

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 594
Author: Padilla (D), et al.
Amended: 8/12/26
Vote: 21

Prior Senate votes not relevant.

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Short-Term Rental Facilitator Act of 2026

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill enacts the Short-Term Rental Facilitator Act of 2026, which permits Indian tribes to require short-term rental facilitators to provide specified information on short-term rentals in their jurisdiction.

Assembly Amendments deleted the contents of the bill and inserted the current provisions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes the legislative body of any city, county, or city and county to levy a tax on the privilege of occupying a room or rooms, or other living space, in a hotel, inn, tourist home or house, motel, or other lodging unless the occupancy is for a period of more than 30 days. The tax, when levied by the legislative body of a county, applies only to the unincorporated areas of the county.

2) Establishes the "Short-Term Rental Facilitator Act of 2025," which applies only to those local agencies that adopt an ordinance that makes these provisions applicable.

3) Requires each short-term rental facilitator to report, pursuant to a specified schedule and in the form and manner prescribed by the local agency, the physical address including nine-digit zip code of each short-term rental during the reporting period. If the information provided by the short-term rental facilitator is not sufficient for the local agency to identify a specific short-term rental at the provided address, the local agency may request the following:

   a) The assessor parcel number of the host property.

   b) The URL associated with the specific host property listing.

   c) Information exclusively related to the identification of an accessory dwelling unit, guest house, or single unit of a timeshare or multifamily housing project located at a single address, which is located at the address or assessor parcel number requested.

4) A local agency may make the failure of a short-term rental facilitator to report the information required by this section subject to an administrative fine or penalty, as specified.

5) Allows a local agency to conduct an audit or otherwise examine the records of the short-term rental facilitator documenting the receipt of the transient occupancy tax due and payable to the local agency, if the short-term rental facilitator is responsible for collecting and remitting the transient occupancy tax to the local agency pursuant to a local ordinance or collection agreement.

6) Provides that any costs associated with an audit or examination must be paid for by the local agency.

This bill enacts the Short-Term Rental (STR) Facilitator Act of 2026, which permits Indian tribes to require STR facilitators to provide the same information on STRs to tribal governments that the STR Facilitator Act of 2025 required them to provide to local agencies.

Background

Transient occupancy taxes. State law allows cities and counties to levy a tax on the privilege of occupying a room or rooms, or other living space, in a hotel, inn, tourist home, motel, or other lodging unless the occupancy is for a period of more

than 30 days. These taxes—commonly known as Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOTs)—are typically collected by lodging providers as an itemized charge based on a percentage of a customer's bill, who then remit proceeds to the local agency where the lodging was provided. In California, around 430 cities and 55 counties levy a TOT, mostly for general revenue purposes, at rates from 3% to over 15.5%. According to the State Controller's Office, TOTs generated over $3.3 billion in revenue for local agencies in the 2022-23 fiscal year. The state does not currently impose its own TOT.

Tribal sovereignty. California currently has 109 federally-recognized Indian tribes, with others petitioning for recognition. There are special rules that govern state and local jurisdiction for Indians and Indian Country, and federal and tribal laws may also apply. Like local governments, tribal governments can pass their own local ordinances to govern their members and their land. Federal courts have consistently held that tribes have the power of taxation on their members and on nonmembers doing business in their jurisdiction. As such, many tribal governments impose taxes similar to those the state and local governments impose. For example, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians imposes a variety of taxes including possessory interest tax, sales tax, and a TOT. Their tax department collects revenue from these taxes, which goes to support tribal government, services, and programs. When a tribe seeks to enforce their ordinances, like those allowing for the imposition of these taxes, these tribal ordinances typically get enforced through tribal courts.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "Short-term rentals have become an increasingly popular lodging option throughout California, including on tribal lands. Yet while cities and counties can access the information needed to collect transient occupancy taxes on these properties, federally recognized Indian tribes are currently excluded from accessing the same information. The lack of access to this information makes it significantly more difficult for tribal governments to administer and collect their own transient occupancy taxes, which are vital to funding essential government services for the reservation community, including public safety, fire and emergency response, and tourism management. SB 594 extends existing law to ensure that federally recognized Indian tribes may receive the information required to collect these taxes on rental properties located on their tribal land, advancing California's policy of cooperative intergovernmental relations."

2) *Necessary?* Tribal governments generally do not rely on state law to adopt or enforce their locally enacted ordinances. However, tribal governments, including the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the sponsors of this measure, report having similar challenges to those local agencies have experienced when trying to collect information on STRs within their jurisdiction. While tribal governments have the ability to adopt an STR ordinance requiring STR facilitators to disclose this information and enforce those provisions in tribal courts, this does not allow them to compel these STR facilitators to disclose this information in state court. Tribal governments believe developing consistent reporting requirements for both local and tribal governments would improve compliance with STR disclosure requirements.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Hotel & Lodging Association
City of Rancho Mirage
Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/20/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/26/26 12:59:40

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 626
Author: Smallwood-Cuevas (D) and Cervantes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/30/25
AYES: Menjivar, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 6/2/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Perinatal health screenings and treatment

SOURCE: California Coalition for Perinatal Mental Health & Justice
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Sage Therapeutics
PSI-California
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

DIGEST: This bill revises an existing requirement on plans and insurers relating to maternal mental health (MMH) screenings to require case management, care coordination, guidelines, and the standards of care appropriate to the provider's

scope of practice, as specified. Encourages health plans and insurers to provide coverage for outpatient prescription drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for MMH. Requires licensed health care practitioners who provide perinatal care for a patient to ensure the patient is screened for MMH consistent with the plan or insurer MMH program, and applicable standards of care.

Assembly Amendments return terminology back to "maternal"(instead of perinatal) mental health, replace medication and digital therapeutics with "outpatient prescription drugs," define case management and care coordination, revise the definition of MMH condition, require, if a patient or client screens positive for a MMH condition, licensed health care practitioners to ensure the patient is offered or receives a clinical evaluation, and if the practitioner diagnoses the patient, the practitioner to make or provide treatment to the patient or client. Makes clarifying changes to this bill such as replacing the term "standards" with "the standards of care" and replace "medical providers" with the term "licensed health care practitioners."

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to regulate health plans under the Knox-Keene Health Care Services Plan Act of 1975; the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to regulate health and other insurers; and the Medi-Cal program, administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), under which low-income individuals are eligible for medical coverage. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1340, et seq., Insurance Code (INS) §106, et seq. and Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §14000, et seq.)

2) Requires a health plan, including a Medi-Cal managed care plan, or insurer to develop a MMH program designed to promote quality and cost-effective outcomes. Requires the program to consist of at least one MMH screening to be conducted during pregnancy, at least one additional screening to be conducted during the first six weeks of the postpartum period, and additional postpartum screenings, if determined to be medically necessary and clinically appropriate in the judgment of the treating provider. (HSC §1367.625 and INS §10123.867)

3) Requires the MMH program to be developed consistent with sound clinical principles and processes, and include quality measures to encourage screening, diagnosis, treatment, and referral. Requires the MMH program guidelines and criteria to be provided to relevant medical providers, including all contracting

obstetric providers. As part of a MMH program the health plan or insurer is encouraged to improve screening, treatment, and referral to MMH services, include coverage for doulas, incentivize training opportunities for contracting obstetric providers, and, educate enrollees about the program. (HSC §1367.625 and INS §10123.867)

4) Defines contracting obstetric provider to mean an individual who is certified or licensed pursuant law, as specified, or an initiative act, as specified, and who is contracted with the health plan or insurer to provide services under the contract or policy. (HSC §1367.625 and INS §10123.867)

5) Defines MMH as a mental health condition that occurs during pregnancy or during the postpartum period and includes, but is not limited to, postpartum depression. (HSC §1367.625 and INS §10123.867)

6) Requires a licensed health care practitioner who provides prenatal, postpartum, or interpregnancy care for a patient to ensure that the mother is offered screening or is appropriately screened for MMH conditions, except when providing emergency services. Defines "health care practitioner" as a physician, naturopathic doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, nurse midwife, or a licensed midwife. (HSC §123640)

This bill:

1) Revises the requirements on plans and insurers to have an MMH program, to include one or more MMH screenings conducted during pregnancy and one or more during the postpartum period in accordance with applicable clinical guidelines and the standards of care appropriate to the provider's scope of practice.

2) Encourages health plans and insurers as part of their MMH programs to provide coverage for outpatient prescription drugs approved by the FDA for MMH.

3) Requires guidelines to be guidelines adopted by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG), unless those guidelines do not align with the provider's scope of practices. If there is not alignment, permits the guidelines to include, but not be limited to, guidelines adopted by other recognized professional bodies. Indicates this does not expand or alter a licensed provider's existing scope of practice.

4) Requires health plans and insurers to provide case management or care coordination for an enrollee or insured who screens positive for MMH in

accordance with the plans or insurers existing case management and care coordination programs.

5) Indicates case management and care coordination may include identification of available treatment providers and community supports, appointment scheduling, behavioral health navigation, medication access assistance when prescribed, regular patient engagement or follow up, and communication with the referring obstetric and behavioral health providers.

6) Indicates case management and care coordination may be provided by the plan or insurer, or by a delegated provider if case management or care coordination, is already provided pursuant to contract, or in the Health Care Provider Bill of Rights law.

7) Requires a plan or insurer to incorporate MMH screening, referral, care coordination and follow up activities into its existing quality improvement and population health management programs and maintain documentation demonstrating compliance that is available to regulators upon request.

8) Defines case management as a health care process in which a health care professional, acting withing their scope of practice, assists a patient by developing and implementing a coordinated plan of care that integrates the medical and psychosocial support services the patient needs to achieve optimal outcomes.

9) Requires a licensed health care practitioner who provides perinatal care for a patient to ensure the patient is screened for MMH consistent with the plan or insurer MMH program, and applicable standards of care.

10) Requires if a patient screens positive, the licensed health care practitioner to ensure that the patient is offered or receives a clinical evaluation, and if the practitioner diagnoses the MMH, to offer or provide the treatment consistent with the practitioner's scope of practice. This may be satisfied by referring the patient or client to another licensed health care practitioner who is authorized to screen, evaluate, diagnose, and treat the patient or client for MMH.

11) Defines MMH condition to include postpartum and perinatal depression, as defined by the most recent clinical guidelines adopted by ACOG on the screening and diagnosis of MMH during pregnancy and postpartum, regardless of the pregnancy outcome and inclusive of gender-diverse birthing people.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

> MMH conditions, including depression and anxiety, are the most common complications of pregnancy and a leading cause of maternal mortality. In California, one in three birthing people are affected, yet 85% go untreated. These conditions cost the state $2.4 billion annually and increase the risk of chronic mental health issues, suicide, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, preterm birth, impaired parent-child bonding, adverse childhood experiences, and developmental delays in children. Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities are disproportionately impacted. This bill addresses this urgent need by ensuring equitable, comprehensive mental health care for all birthing people. The bill aligns with state and federal efforts to reduce maternal mortality, including initiatives from the Administration, DHCS, California Department of Public Health, and the California Surgeon General's office. It strengthens existing law by specifying screening timelines per ACOG guidelines, addressing coverage of FDA-approved treatments for perinatal mental health, and requiring insurers and health plans to report screening rates for accountability. This bill will increase access to timely mental health care, reduce societal costs, and improve long-term outcomes, particularly in marginalized communities.

Support if amended. The Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide request an amendment to define "perinatal period" as the time beginning with pregnancy and extending through 12 months following childbirth.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, CDI estimates costs of $6,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, $32,000 in FY 2026-27, and $15,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing for state administration (Insurance Fund).

DMHC anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

CalPERS does not anticipate costs associated with this bill.

Costs to DHCS, if any, are likely negligible.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Black Women for Wellness Action Project (co-source)
California Coalition for Perinatal Mental Health & Justice (source)

Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health (co-source)
California Chapter of Postpartum Support International (co-source)
Sage Therapeutics (co-source)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Asian Resources, Inc.
Be Mom Aware
Black Women for Wellness Action Project
Breastfeed LA
California Access Coalition
California Association for Nurse Practitioners
California Behavioral Health Association
California Black Women's Health Project
California Catholic Conference
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Nurse Midwives Association
California Perinatal Hub, Inc.
California WIC Association
Citizens for Choice
Claris Health
County of Fresno
Curio Digital Therapeutics
Diversity Uplifts
Ethical Family Building
Everychild Foundation
First 5 California
First 5 LA
Food Empowerment Project
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Insure the Uninsured Project
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family Service LA
LA Best Babies Network
Love, Dad
Maternal Mental Health NOW
March of Dimes
Medical Board of California

National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles
Nourishing Justly
Postpartum Health Alliance
Return to Zero: HOPE
Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative
South Asian Network
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
The Children's Partnership
The Crow
The MotherBoard Los Angeles
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Women's Voices for the Earth
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
California Association of Health Plans

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Cosponsors of this bill (California Coalition for Perinatal Mental Health & Justice, Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health, Postpartum Support International-California, and Black Women for Wellness Action Project) write, "This bill offers California a scalable, affordable, and equity-driven solution to address our MMH crisis. It builds on existing law to improve unintended outcomes without expanding scope of practice or adding significant cost, providing clarity on screening requirements aligning with clinical bodies, and providing coverage for targeted treatments. In a moment of fiscal constraint, this bill is a smart, strategic investment, one that will save the state and private payers cost over time, save lives, close treatment and care coordination gaps and prevent long-term suffering for families across the state." The California Coalition for Perinatal Mental Health & Justice writes that this bill will make significant strides in improving access to mental health care for birthing families, particularly those from marginalized communities, and, by expanding coverage and ensuring accountability, this bill will help reduce health disparities, save lives, and ultimately lead to healthier, more supported families across the state. ACOG writes, "This bill takes an important step by updating terminology, better reflecting the full spectrum of mental health needs from pregnancy through the postpartum period. ACOG says most notably, the bill requires that screenings, diagnoses, and treatments be guided by clinical standards set by ACOG, ensuring that care is grounded in the most current, evidence-based practices, and, by relying on clinical guidelines rather than codifying specific practices in statute, this bill allows the

standard of care to evolve with advances in science and medicine. ACOG believes this flexibility is critical to improving outcomes and expanding access to effective mental health services for pregnant and postpartum individuals. Finally, ACOG indicates the bill also includes essential provisions for case management, care coordination, and coverage of treatment tools which together create a more comprehensive and responsive system of support for patients during the perinatal period.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Association of Health Plans and the Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies write in opposition to health insurance mandate bills including this one. The opposition writes these bills will increase costs, reduce choice and competition and further incent some employers and individuals to avoid state regulation by seeking other coverage options. Benefit mandates impose a one-size-fits all approach to medical care and benefit design without consideration for consumer choiceThe opposition also indicates that adding new mandates at a time when the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) is working to curb healthcare costs could disrupt those efforts and make it difficult for health care entities to meet the OCHA spending target. The opposition urges the Legislature to consider the cumulative impacts of these mandates on premiums and access to coverage, and they believe that benefit mandates stifle the use of innovative, evidence-based medicine.

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 16:39:14

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 632
Author: Arreguín (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/26/26
AYES: Pérez, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/24/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Community colleges: California College Promise

SOURCE: CFT – A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals

DIGEST: This bill reduces the minimum unit requirement for a California community college (CCC) student to qualify for a California College Promise fee waiver from 12 units, or a full-time courseload, to 9 units. This bill also requires a CCC, as a condition of receiving program funds, to provide written notification to a student, upon issuing an initial fee waiver, on (1) the period of eligibility for a California College Promise fee waiver is limited to two academic years, (2) a description of the units a student needs per semester or academic year to complete an associate degree or certificate within two academic years, and (3) information on how to access other financial aid opportunities available to a student who has exceeded their two years of eligibility for a fee waiver.

Assembly Amendments replace the contents of the version of the bill amended April 10, 2025 to instead reduce the minimum unit requirement for a CCC student to qualify for a California College Promise fee waiver from 12 units to 9 units, and to require a CCC, as a condition of receiving program funds, to provide written notification, as specified, to a student upon issuing an initial fee waiver. The amendments also add language to avoid chaptering out issues with the section amended by this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the mission and function of the CCCs, which, in part, is to:

    a) Offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students.

    b) Authorizes the CCC to grant the associate in arts degree and the associate in science degree.

    c) Requires the CCC to offer English as a Second Language instruction, adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level.

    d) Advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement. (Education Code (EC) § 66010.4)

2) Requires community college districts (CCDs) to charge students an enrollment fee of $46 per unit per semester. (EC § 76300)

3) Provides for a fee waiver for certain types of students, including those who meet minimum academic and progress standards adopted by the Board of Governors (BOG) and have incomes below certain thresholds established by the BOG or have demonstrated financial need pursuant to federal law. (EC § 76300)

4) Establishes the California College Promise, under the administration of the Chancellor of the CCCs, and requires the Chancellor, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to distribute funding to CCDs to fund colleges that meet specified requirements. (EC § 76396)

5) Authorizes a community college to use funding appropriated for the California College Promise to waive some or all of the fees for two academic years for first-time community college students and returning community college students, who are enrolled full time at the college, and who complete and submit either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act application (CADAA). (EC § 76396.3)

6) Defines "full time" as 12 or more semester units or the equivalent. (EC § 76396.3)

7) Permits that a student enrolled in fewer than 12 units may be deemed "full time", for purposes of eligibility for the California College Promise, at the discretion of the institution if the student has been certified as "full time" by a staff person in the disabled student services program at the institution who is qualified to make such a designation. (EC § 76396.3)

This bill:

1) Requires a community college, as a condition of receiving funding for the California College Promise, to provide a written notification to a student, upon issuing the student an initial fee waiver, that states the following:

    a) A statement informing the student that the period of eligibility for a California College Promise fee waiver is limited to two academic years, as specified.

    b) A description of the number of units a student needs to complete per semester or the quarterly equivalent, or the number of semester or quarterly units the student needs to complete per academic year, to complete an associate degree or certificate program within two academic years.

    c) Information on how to access other financial aid opportunities available to a student who has exceeded their two years of eligibility for a fee waiver.

2) Reduces the minimum unit requirement for community college students to qualify for a California College Promise fee waiver from 12 units, or a full-time courseload, to 9 units.

3) Revises the definition of "full time" to be "eligible workload", which means 9 or more semester units or the equivalent, for purposes of eligibility for the California College Promise.

4) Provides that a student enrolled in fewer than 9 units—instead of 12 units—may be certified as eligible for the California College Promise, at the discretion of the institution if the student has been certified as eligible, based

on commitment by the student that is analogous to an eligible workload, by a staff person in the disabled student services program at the institution who is qualified to make such a designation.

5) Adds language to avoid chaptering out issues with the section amended by this bill.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* The author states, "I am proud to lead the fight to expand the California College Promise program to help our neediest students by expanding the ability of our community colleges to waive the fees for part-time students for two years. Existing law requires that a student be full time in order to receive a fee waiver through the program, which erroneously locks out our least advantaged students and perpetuates inequity and inequality at our community colleges."

2) *Statutory fees and fee waivers for the CCC system.* At $46 per unit, and with an annual average tuition of $1,380 for full-time California resident students, the CCC system offers the lowest tuition in the nation, as of February 2026. Enrollment fees are waived for CCC students demonstrating financial need, which was almost half of CCC students, or over 1 million students, in 2024-25. For decades, this waiver was known as the BOG fee waiver and has existed since CCC enrollment fees were established in 1984. The fee waiver has since been renamed the California College Promise Grant—not to be confused with the separate California College Promise Program. A CCC student meeting specified income standards may qualify and may receive the waiver, so long as they are eligible to take courses; there is no minimum unit requirement, and the fee waiver is applied to any course for which a student must pay the enrollment fee.

3) *The California College Promise was initially framed as "Free College" for first-time, full-time students.* The California College Promise was established by AB 19 (Santiago, Chapter 735, Statutes of 2017). The program, broadly marketed as providing "free college", allowed participating CCCs to waive some or all enrollment fees for one academic year for first-time, full-time community college students who completed and submitted a FAFSA or CADAA. Unlike the statutory fee waivers for CCC students demonstrating financial need, the California College Promise allowed CCCs to waive fees for students who did not demonstrate financial need but met other program

criteria. Though some have critiqued the California College Promise for not being a means-tested program, others have indicated that the "free college" marketing have created interest and enthusiasm in CCCs that exceeds the costs of the program. In addition, program eligibility for the California College Promise focused on students who are enrolled full time, with the intent to expedite the time to degree for students in exchange for paying for a student's tuition.

4) *Student eligibility for the program's fee waivers has expanded over time.* The California College Promise is a CCC categorical program and has received an appropriation of roughly $91.2 million for the last five years. Though the initial statute intended for California College Promise cohorts to be comprised of first-time, full-time community college students, subsequent legislation has gradually expanded student eligibility for the program:

- AB 2 (Santiago, Chapter 509, Statutes of 2019) authorized for a student enrolled in fewer than 12 units to be deemed as full time at the discretion of the institution if the student has been certified as full time by a staff person in the disabled student services program.

- AB 3137 (Voepel, Chapter 226, Statutes of 2020) required that a student who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, and is called to duty, may withdraw from participation in the California College Promise and resume program participation upon the student's return from duty without losing eligibility for the benefits of the program, including fee waivers.

- AB 183 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 54, Statutes of 2022) made returning students, defined as a student who has taken a break of one or more semesters (or the quarterly equivalent), eligible for the program.

- AB 1342 (Megan Dahle, Chapter 102, Statutes of 2023) clarified that a high school pupil who enrolls in community college as part of dual enrollment programs are required to be considered a first-time community college student for purposes of the California College Promise upon the student's enrollment in community college after high school graduation.

5) *The California College Promise incentivizes full-time enrollment, which can help students save money over time.* Since the program's inception, the California College Promise has required most students receiving fee waivers

to be enrolled full time. According to a 2014 report from the Campaign for College Opportunity called "The Real Cost of College: Time and Credits to Degree in California," a student who takes four years to earn an associate degree can spend as much as $15,200 more on fees and other expenses, and will earn $33,500 less, compared to someone who graduated in two years. As a result of these additional years, this student would incur $48,700 in extra expenses and lost wages.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office's 2024 report called "Trends in Higher Education: Student Outcomes," CCC completion rates have ticked up over time but remain very low. It finds that the three-year completion rate has increased steadily over time, rising from 12% in 2011-12 to around 18% by 2017-18; the two-year completion rate also shows a gradual increase from roughly 5% in 2011-12 to around 9% by 2018-19. Despite improvement over time, overall completion rates remain low. It is unclear to what extent reducing the unit requirement for this specific program may have on completion rates for students.

6) *2025 report on California College Promise program.* AB 2 (Santiago, Chapter 509, Statutes of 2019) required the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to submit a report, by July 1, 2024, to the Legislature evaluating the use of funding for the California College Promise to waive student fees, and for the report to determine whether the program was supporting the CCCs in accomplishing certain goals outlined in program statute. The CCCCO submitted the report on July 1, 2025, with the following findings:

- Use of funds. The report indicated that from 2018-19 to 2022-23, 70% of the participating CCCs used some of their program funds to waive student fees, 48% of participating CCCs used some funds on book vouchers, and 24% of participating CCCs used some funds on emergency grants.

- Completion rates. The report indicated that three-year associate's degree or career technical education certification completion rates for first-time students declined from 34% for the 2018 cohort to 28% for the 2020 cohort. This decline may be attributed to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which negatively impacted retention.

- Transfer rates. The report indicated that transfer rates to the University of California and the California State University were 37% for the 2018 cohort to 36% for the 2020 cohort—essentially unchanged.

7) *Impact of reducing minimum unit requirements for a 2-year fee waiver program.* This bill is substantially similar to AB 537 (Ahrens, 2025), which was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and this bill revises the requirement that students must be enrolled full time—defined as 12 or more units, and instead requires students to be enrolled in at least 9 units to receive fee waivers. Current law allows, but does not require, CCCs to waive fees for full-time students for two academic years using program funds, and applicants are not required to demonstrate their financial need to qualify for a waiver.

   A primary mission of the CCCs is to award associate degrees, which are typically composed of 60 semester units. A student enrolled in 12 units per semester can complete the degree in 2.5 years, while a student taking 9 units per semester would take approximately 3.5 years. Current law limits eligibility for the California College Promise waiver program to two years. The bill's proposed change to reduce the minimum unit requirement from 12 to 9 units could potentially extend the time needed to finish an associate degree to be significantly beyond the waiver's expiration date. This gap could leave students without financial aid or needing to rely on other aid programs for additional semesters. The Legislature will need to consider the tradeoff of making changes to the California College Promise that could provide additional support services for students who are taking fewer units against encouraging students to take additional units so that they could potentially complete their programs more quickly.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 537 (Ahrens, 2025) would have reduced the minimum unit requirement for CCC students to qualify for a California College Promise fee waiver from full time (12 or more units) to 9 units. AB 537 (Ahrens, 2025), which is substantially similar to SB 632 (Arreguín, 2026), was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, possibly in the millions of dollars for the

CCCs, collectively statewide, to provide fee waivers to part-time students under the California College Promise Program.

- One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs in the tens of thousands of dollars for the CCCs, collectively statewide, to develop and provide information to students regarding the benefits of full-time enrollment.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

CFT – A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/24/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: McKinnor

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 19:54:48

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 661
Author: Hurtado (D)
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 27

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 14-0, 4/22/25
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Limón, Richardson, Seyarto, Umberg, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/23/25
AYES: McNerney, Valladares, Ashby, Grayson, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 6/4/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 13-0, 8/25/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Airports: financial assistance

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill transfers from the General Fund (GF), the Local Public Safety Fund (LPSF), and the Local Revenue Fund (LRF) to the Aeronautics Account in the State Transportation Account certain revenues derived from the imposition of state sales and use tax (SUT) on jet fuel and dedicates those revenues to specified airports and aviation-related purposes.

Assembly Amendments recast the fuel tax revenue allocation determination and transfer mechanism within this bill and revise the funding allocation formula.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Prohibits revenues derived from local taxes on aviation fuel, except taxes in effect on December 30, 1987, and the revenues generated by an airport from being expended for any purpose other than the capital or operating costs of:

   a) The airport;

   b) The local airport system; or,

   c) Other local facilities owned or operated by the airport owner or operator directly and substantially related to the air transportation of passengers or property. (49 U.S.C. 47133(a).)

2) Requires, for the U.S. Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to approve an airport development project grant application, that airport operators provide written assurances of compliance with the restrictions on local tax revenues derived from sales of aviation fuel and revenues generated by the airport. (49 U.S.C. Section 47107(b)(1).)

3) Provides that local taxes, including local taxes on aviation fuel at public airports, enacted not later than September 2, 1982, in a law controlling financing by the airport owner or operator, or a covenant or assurance in a debt obligation issued not later than September 2, 1982, by the owner or operator, are not subject to the above restrictions and may also support the general debt obligations or other facilities of the owner or operator. (49 U.S.C. Sections 47107(b)(2) and 47133(b)(1).)

4) Provides that state taxes on aviation fuel to support a state aviation program or the use of airport revenue on or off the airport for a noise mitigation purpose are not subject to the above restrictions. (49 U.S.C. Sections 47107(b)(3) and 47133(c).)

5) Authorizes the Secretary to withhold federal grant funding if, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary finds a violation of the assurances concerning airport revenues described above, provided that the Secretary has allowed the airport sponsor an opportunity to take corrective action to cure such violation, and such corrective action has not been taken within the period of time set by the Secretary. (49 U.S.C. Section 47111(e).)

6) Authorizes the Secretary to apply to the corresponding United States district court in which the violation occurred for enforcement of the above provisions. (49 U.S.C. Section 47111(f).)

Existing state law:

1) Imposes, subject to specified exemptions and exclusions, a sales tax on all retailers on the retail sale of tangible personal property (TPP) in California. If the sales tax does not apply, the SUT Law imposes a complimentary use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of TPP purchased from a retailer. (R&TC Section 6001 *et seq.*)

2) Authorizes counties and cities, under the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local SUT Law (Bradley-Burns), to impose a local SUT for TPP sold at retail in the county or city, or purchased for storage, use, or other consumption in the county or city. Requires the county or city to contract with the California Department of Fee & Tax Administration (CDTFA) for the administration of the taxes and requires CDTFA, in turn, to transmit those taxes to the city or county. (R&TC Section 7202 *et seq.*)

3) Provides that, for purposes of a local Bradley-Burns sales tax, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer, unless otherwise specified. (R&TC Section 7205.)

4) Provides that the point of delivery of jet fuel is also the point of sale when determining local taxes under Bradley-Burns, regardless of whether the retailer has more than one place of business in this state. (R&TC Section 7204.03.)

5) Exempts aviation gasoline from the imposition of SUT. (R&TC Section 6357.)

6) Imposes the aircraft jet fuel tax, which is imposed on jet fuel dealers at $0.02 per gallon sold to jet fuel users. (R&TC Section 7385 *et seq.*)

7) Defines "aircraft jet fuel" as any inflammable liquid which is used or sold for use in propelling aircraft operated by the jet or turbine type of engine. (R&TC Section 7387.)

8) Exempts fuel sold for use by a common carrier, the U.S. Armed Forces, and manufacturers and servicers of aircraft from the aircraft jet fuel tax. (R&TC Section 7389.)

9) Requires, beginning January 1, 2020, retailers of aircraft jet fuel to provide quarterly information to CDTFA regarding their sales of aircraft jet fuel by airport location and requires CDTFA to post the information from these reports online on a quarterly basis to comply with Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) "Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue; Proceeds from Taxes on Aviation Fuel" (79 Fed. Reg. 66282 (Nov. 7, 2014)). (R&TC Section 6452.052.)

This bill:

1) Directs the State Controller, by September 1 of each year, to transfer from the GF, LPSF, and the LRF to the Aeronautics Account a dollar amount equal to 1.25% (0.25% GF, 0.50% LPSF and 0.50% LRF) of revenues derived from the imposition of state SUT, as specified, on jet fuel and dedicates the amounts transferred to airport and aviation-related purposes.

2) Requires Division of Aeronautics (Division), within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), to annually allocate from revenue collected from taxes on jet fuel sold at airports, after deducting administrative expenses, to eligible recipients the following percentages of available funds for airports and aviation-related purposes as follows:

   a) 75% of the revenue to be divided among each public and private airport where jet fuel is sold or consumed based on the airport's fuel flowage statistics reported for the previous calendar year. Of this total annual allocation, until December 31, 2031, the division must use $500,000 to

provide grants to rural, nonhub commercial airports and general aviation airports;

b) 15% for general aviation airports, to be divided and credited to individual airports consistent with a process established by the Division;

c) 9% to existing grant programs that serve nonhub and small hub airports; and,

d) 1% to provide grants for aviation education that includes, but is not limited to, programs that provide workforce development, flight training, traffic control training and education, and aviation-related degrees from accredited universities.

3) In the first year, up to $1 million is available for administrative costs incurred by the Division to establish a process and allocate funds pursuant to (b) above; thereafter, up to $600,000 annually is available to the Division for administrative costs.

4) Requires all public and private use airports where jet fuel is sold or consumed to report to the Division the airport's fuel flowage statistics for the previous calendar year by March 31 for purposes of calculating individual airport fuel tax allocations.

5) Specifies that "fuel flowage statistics" includes the total gallons of jet fuel sold or consumed annually at an airport.

6) Defines "jet fuel" as aircraft jet fuel which is any inflammable liquid used or sold for use in propelling aircraft operated by the jet or turbine type of engine.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "California's airports operate as one interconnected system, where the strength of every airport contributes to the resiliency, efficiency, and competitiveness of the entire network. When smaller airports fall behind, our statewide transportation system, economy, and connectivity suffer. SB 661 establishes a dedicated funding stream using existing jet fuel sales tax revenues to strengthen our entire airport system. By making targeted investments across our entire airport network, this bill promotes equitable economic development, creates jobs, improves mobility, and better positions California to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving

aviation industry while advancing compliance with federal aviation revenue requirements. If California intends to remain the nation's leader in transportation, innovation, and economic opportunity, we must invest in the entire airport system—not just individual airports. With SB 661 California is taking a more strategic approach to the future of aviation."

2) *SB 661 redirects approximately $39 million annually to California's airports.* In order to meet federal requirements and better fund California's airports, SB 661 requires that certain revenues derived from the imposition of sales and use taxes on purchases of jet fuel be transferred to the state Aeronautics Account for allocation to airports and aviation-related purposes. The amounts subject to allocation are to be determined by CDTFA and the funds must primarily be used to improve airport infrastructure based on a prescribed funding formula. SB 661 seeks to resolve a longstanding dispute between California and the FAA and to provide adequate funding for the state's aviation system. The current version of the bill is the final product of extensive negotiations among stakeholders, including airports and airlines.

3) *Seeking federal compliance.* In November 2014, the FAA issued a directive (Docket No. FAA-2013-0988) to confirm its longstanding policy, based on federal law, that aviation fuel taxes be used exclusively for airport purposes and state aviation programs. The directive does not apply to state and local taxes on aviation fuel in effect prior to December 30, 1987. However, in July 2012, California began transferring revenues attributable to aviation fuel taxes from the Aeronautics Account to the General Fund.

   As such, according to the FAA, California has yet to reach federal compliance. In correspondence with the FAA over the last ten years, the California Department of Finance (DOF) disagrees, arguing that California meets the FAA's requirement by funding offsetting project costs that are beneficial to the state's airport network. DOF wrote to the FAA in 2017 that "California complies with federal law by spending more on its airports than the State receives in state general tax revenue derived from aviation fuel." The FAA rejected this assertion, arguing that DOF's contention was unsubstantiated and asked for detailed financial documentation of the State's expenditures that were directly related to air transportation. The FAA has threatened to withhold federal money and "seek assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office" if California does not comply. The dispute remains unresolved.

   According to the California Airports Council, "SB 661 represents California's most significant effort to address the longstanding issue of aviation fuel tax

revenue diversion and bring the state into compliance with federal aviation revenue use requirements…The consequences of continued noncompliance are significant. The Federal Aviation Administration has repeatedly identified California as a jurisdiction that has not aligned with federal Revenue Use requirements and has continued to seek information regarding the state's use of aviation fuel tax revenues. As federal scrutiny increases, uncertainty about California's compliance status poses risks not only to the state but also to the airports that rely on a strong partnership with the FAA to support infrastructure investments, safety initiatives, and long-term planning."

4) *A new funding formula.* The new funding formula within SB 661 includes a partial return-to-source provision, which directs 75% of the revenue collected from taxes on jet fuel to be retained by the airport at which the jet fuel was sold. The airport would be able to use the funds for purposes related to airport operations, capital improvements, maintenance, and other aviation-related infrastructure needs as determined by the airport's governing authority.

   The bill requires 15% of the revenue to be allocated to general aviation airports, to be divided and credited to individual airports consistent with a process established by the Division of Aeronautics. Nine percent of the revenues would be allocated to existing grant programs for smaller, regional airports. One percent would go towards grants for training, education, and workforce development.

   Writing in support, Airlines for America states, "A4A has consistently advocates that state sales tax revenues on jet fuel—which are almost wholly generated by commercial aviation at the state's largest airports—should return to the airport of origin as closely as possible. This carefully crafted bill achieves this important goal while balancing the interest and needs of the Caltrans Aeronautics Division, small airports and the general aviation community."

   The California Airports Council (CAC) also notes, "CAC appreciates that SB 661 recognizes the interconnected nature of California's aviation network. Commercial service airports, reliever airports, and general aviation airports each serve distinct but complementary roles that collectively support statewide mobility, economic development, emergency response, and public safety."

5) *What does this mean for airports?* SB 661 will redirect roughly $39 million annually from existing state funds, including the General Fund, to the Aeronautics Account. Seventy-five percent of that amount (just over

$29 million) will be divided among each public and private use airport where jet fuel is sold or consumed based on the airport's fuel flowage statistics reported for the previous calendar year. This means large airports, where the majority of jet fuel is sold, will receive a higher share of revenues compared to airports where less aviation fuel is sold.
However, the bill diverts additional funding to smaller airports instead of using a pure return-to-source formula. Nine percent of the revenue would go to existing grant programs that serve nonhub and small hub airports. Additionally, SB 661 earmarks $500,000 annually for rural, nonhub commercial airports and general aviation airports until 2032.

General aviation airports are publicly or privately owned airports that do not primarily serve scheduled commercial airline traffic. They accommodate a wide range of aviation activities, from private flying and flight training to business aviation, emergency services, and recreational flying. SB 661 directs fifteen percent of the funding directly to these airports.

Lastly, one percent of the funding will go to provide grants for aviation education that includes, but is not limited to, programs, projects, or initiatives that improve or enrich the aviation workforce within the California aviation community. Grants may include scholarships for flight training, traffic control training and education, and aviation-related degrees from accredited universities.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Increased annual revenue of approximately $39 million to the Aeronautics Account and a corresponding revenue loss to the GF of approximately $7.8 million and $15.6 million to each the LPSF and the LRF (based on recent annual jet fuel sales in California of $3.1 billion and the bill's transfer rate of 1.25%).

- Significant annual costs to Caltrans to allocate funds deposited into the Aeronautics Account. Caltrans estimates these costs at approximately $800,000 to fund four positions to allocate funds to over 200 airports. If Caltrans' cost estimate turns out to be accurate, the bill provides sufficient funding to cover this administrative cost in the first year of implementation—up to $1 million—but insufficient funding—up to $600,000—in each subsequent year.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America (A4A)
Association of California Airports
California Airports Council
City of Bakersfield
County of Kern
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Vertical Aviation International (VAI)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/20/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen

Prepared by: Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/25/26 21:20:32

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 667
Author: Archuleta (D)
Amended: 6/3/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 12-4, 4/21/25
AYES: Becker, Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Gonzalez, Grayson, Limón, McNerney, Rubio, Stern, Wahab
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Dahle, Grove, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 11-3, 1/13/26
AYES: Cortese, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Pérez, Richardson, Umberg
NOES: Dahle, Seyarto, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 4-2, 1/22/26
AYES: Caballero, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

SENATE FLOOR: 26-11, 1/27/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Cabaldon, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero, Grayson, Hurtado

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Railroads: safety: report

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to evaluate a list of hazardous railroad sites by July 1, 2029, and determine whether changes to railroad operations, conditions and safety data warrant modifications to the list.

Assembly Amendments delete the prior version of this bill and add language requiring the CPUC to evaluate whether changes to railroad operations, conditions and safety data warrant modifications to the CPUC's list of hazardous railroad sites.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines a "public utility" as every common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation, and heat corporation. Existing law provides the CPUC with authority to regulate public utilities. (Public Utilities Code §216)

2) Specifies that the definition of a "common carrier" includes every railroad corporation, street railroad corporation, and specified car corporation accepting compensation for transportation. (Public Utilities Code §211)

3) Requires approval from the CPUC before an applicant can construct a public road, highway, or street across a railroad track. (Public Utilities Code §1201)

4) Provides the CPUC with exclusive authority to prescribe standards for railroad crossings, including the location, installation, operation, maintenance, and use of crossings. (Public Utilities Code §1202)

5) Allows individuals who own land through which a railroad operates to build private crossings over the railroad when those crossings are necessary for ingress or egress. Existing law gives the CPUC the authority to determine the necessity for any crossing, the location and conditions for constructing and maintaining the private crossing, and the ability to assess costs. (Public Utilities Code §7537)

6) Requires the CPUC to annually submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, regarding railroad lines in California that the CPUC deems hazardous. Existing law specifies that this report must include specified information about railroad accidents and railroad sites that pose local safety hazards. (Public Utilities Code §916.2)

This bill requires the CPUC to evaluate its list of hazardous railroad sites by July 1, 2029, and determine whether changes to railroad operations, conditions and safety data warrant modifications to the list.

Background

The East Palestine rail derailment increased awareness of railroad safety issues. In 2020, a freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed in the town of East Palestine, Ohio. In a subsequent investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined that a rail car's defective wheel bearing overheated and failed, triggering the train derailment. At the time of the derailment, the train was approximately 9,000 feet in length, consisting of 149 cars. Of those 149 cars, 38 derailed, and 11 of the derailed cars contained toxic chemicals. While the derailment did not directly result in any fatalities or injuries, fires burning around derailed cars containing combustible toxic chemicals led to concerns about the potential for an uncontrolled explosion. Residents of East Palestine continue to express concerns about the safety of the town's air and water following the derailment.

The East Palestine derailment raised a variety of concerns about safety issues related to railroads, including concerns about the extent to which inadequate warning systems, overly long train lengths, and low train staffing ratios increase the likelihood of train crashes and derailments. These concerns have also reignited debates about the extent to which regulations should address trains blocking traffic around at-grade crossings, particularly when that traffic includes emergency response vehicles.

The CPUC's role in railroad regulation. While the CPUC has long held a role in regulating rail safety, federal law largely preempts states from regulating most rail operations. The Federal Railroad Safety Act (FRSA) and the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act (ICCTA) expressly exempt states from exercising regulatory action over railroads in certain circumstances. For example, the ICCTA provides the federal Surface Transportation Board with exclusive authority over the construction and operation of railroad tracks and facilities, even when those

tracks and facilities are located entirely in one state. Federal law also generally gives the Federal Railroad Administration regulatory authority over railroad tracks, vehicles, speeds, and safety inspections. Generally, if a law has not provided a federal agency with express preemption authority, the agency may claim an implied preemption power, which may depend on whether the federal agency has adopted a conflicting federal regulation. However, federal law also sets express boundaries on states' authority to adopt railroad safety regulations in the absence of federal rules. Federal statute (Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) §20106) states that states can only adopt rail safety rules in circumstances where there is no federal conflicting rule and all of the following conditions are also met:

- The regulation necessary to eliminate or reduce an essentially local safety or security hazard,
- The regulation is not incompatible with a law, regulation, or order of the United States Government; and
- The regulation does not unreasonably burden interstate commerce.

Federal and state courts have consistently preempted state statutes addressing rail infrastructure, train length, and blocked crossings – even in circumstances where the federal government has not implemented a conflicting regulation. In a number of cases, the courts have deferred to the federal government's broad authority over interstate commerce.

Bill modifies existing CPUC reporting on hazardous railroad sites. This bill requires the CPUC to evaluate the list of rail lines identified as local safety hazard sites (LSHSs) by the CPUC and determine the extent to which railroad operations, conditions and safety data warrant changes to this list. The CPUC annually reports the list of LSHSs to the Legislature as part of requirements developed in response to legislation and regulation regarding rail safety incidents that occurred in the 1990s. In 1991, two separate train derailments in California resulted in large toxic substance spills. A derailment near Dunsmuir, California led to thousands of gallons of pesticide components spilling into the Sacramento River. This spilled killed all fish and wildlife over a 40 mile stretch of the river. A separate derailment near Seacliff, California, also led to a release of toxic materials that necessitated evacuations, highway closures, and medical emergencies. Following these incidents, the Legislature directed the CPUC to identify local safety hazards on rail lines in California and adopt regulations addressing rail safety issues. In 1997, the CPUC finally adopted a decision (D. 97-09-045), which identified 19 LSHSs and established safety requirements for trains operating at these sites. The CPUC's rail

safety regulations were heavily litigated and courts determined that federal law preempted a number of the CPUC's train safety regulations.

Existing law requires the CPUC to annually report a list of LSHSs in the state and identify the number of derailment incidents that have occurred at LSHSs in the previous five years. Since the characteristics of LSHSs has not changed since the CPUC first developed LSHS criteria, the CPUC's reported list of these sites has not changed since 1997. The CPUC's data shows that certain LSHSs are associated with much higher derailment risks. A stretch of Union Pacific rail line near the Tehachapi Pass that serves a critical freight corridor through the Tehachapi Mountains and Mojave Desert is associated with a uniquely high number of derailments. Very few miles of this route's track are in California; however, the route has been associated with more than five percent of the state's derailments over the prior five years. While the CPUC's data shows that some LSHSs routes continue to warrant close tracking of safety concerns, the data also indicates that some routes that are not currently on the LSHS list have experienced more derailments in the past five years than many of those on the LSHS list. By requiring the CPUC to evaluate the LSHS list and determine whether updates are needed, this bill may help the state better identify those routes that currently pose the greatest local safety risk.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 544 (Laird, Chapter 224, Statutes of 2025) allowed the CPUC to establish an expedited review and approval process for railroad crossing applications that are uncontested and do not need additional review or evidentiary hearings.

SB 757 (Archuleta, Chapter 411, Statutes of 2023) clarified licensing requirements for rail crew transportation providers, prohibits certain subcontracting for these services, and increased minimum insurance requirements for rail crew transportation operators.

SB 506 (Laird, Chapter 288, Statutes of 2023) required the CPUC to create a pilot project to test the use of color pavement markings at at-grade highway-railroad crossings, to the extent permitted by federal law.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill will require additional administrative and analytical work of the CPUC, at least until it

completes its review of local safety hazard sites. Costs will likely be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually until that work is completed. For its part, the CPUC estimates these costs at approximately $568,000 annually (special fund): $272,000 for travel, training, and safety and testing equipment and $239,000 for a senior utilities engineer.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Professional Firefighters
California School Employees Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support, the California School Employees Association states:

> SB 667 will increase public safety and rail crew members' safety in California's heavy rail sector by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate a list of sites and determine whether changes in conditions, operations or safety data warrant the removal, modification or addition of any site. By ensuring that there is a regular assessment of safety for potentially hazardous sites, SB 667 would significantly enhance California's ability to detect potential equipment failures before they result in catastrophic incidents such as the East Palestine, Ohio disaster of 2023.

Prepared by: Sarah Smith / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/24/26 16:50:58

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 700
Author: Grayson (D)
Amended: 6/4/26
Vote: 27

PRIOR SENATE VOTES NOT RELEVANT PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 29.10(d)

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/24/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Capital Programs and Climate Financing Authority Act: California Investment and Innovation Program

SOURCE: California Coalition for Community Investment

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a Small Business Assistance Fund (SBAF) established by the Capital Programs and Climate Financing Authority (CPCFA) to fund a grant program for community development financial assistance to the California Investment and Innovation Program (Cal IIP).

Assembly Amendments create a new bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes CPCFA which, among other things, may establish one or more SBAFs to undertake specified activities, including to fund a capital access program for small businesses. (Health and Safety Code Section 44548(a))

2) Permits CPCFA to provide financial assistance in specified forms, including interest rate subsidies, guarantees, and other forms of credit support. (Health and Safety Code Section 44548(b))

This bill:

1) Authorizes CPCFA to fund a grant program for community development financial institutions pursuant to the existing California Investment and Innovation Program.

2) Adds to the list of eligible financing assistance to include grants made to community development financial institutions in furtherance of the California Investment and Innovation Program (Cal IIP).

Background

CPCFA and small business financing. CPCFA administers financing programs intended to encourage capital investment and advance California's environmental, economic, and climate policy goals. Established in 1972 as the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, CPCFA initially focused on issuing tax-exempt bonds for private projects that reduced air and water pollution. Effective January 1, 2026, the authority was renamed the Capital Programs and Climate Financing Authority to reflect its expanded portfolio, which now includes programs supporting small businesses, community development, and climate-related investments. CPCFA's programs include its Tax-Exempt Private Activity Bond Program and the California Capital Access Program (CalCAP). CPCFA may use certain revenues generated through its financing activities to support small business assistance funds.

California Investment and Innovation Program. The Legislature established the California Investment and Innovation Program (Cal IIP) in 2022 through SB 193 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 68, Statutes of 2022) and provided a one-time $50 million General Fund appropriation. Cal IIP provides grants to federally certified community development financial institutions (CDFIs) to increase their capacity to provide technical assistance and access to capital in economically disadvantaged communities. CDFIs may use grant funds to support services and operations that further their community development missions and to strengthen their net assets, allowing them to leverage additional private and public investment. The program was originally authorized to award up to $15 million annually.

CPCFA has awarded approximately $39.2 million through the first three Cal IIP funding rounds. The program awarded approximately $14.2 million to 67 CDFIs for 2023–24, $15 million to 75 CDFIs for 2024–25, and $10 million to 73 CDFIs for 2025–26. As of June 30, 2026, approximately $24 million of those awards had been expended.

Existing law permits CPCFA to establish SBAFs and use those funds for specified financing activities, including CalCAP and other forms of small business assistance. SB 700 expands these authorized uses to expressly allow a SBAF to support grants to CDFIs through Cal IIP. The bill provides CPCFA with an additional mechanism to support Cal IIP using eligible revenues generated through its financing programs rather than relying exclusively on the program's original one-time General Fund capitalization.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the bill will result in cost pressures of an unknown amount, potentially in the millions of dollars, to appropriate additional money to CPCFA to support other SBAF-eligible programs, to the extent this bill results in the redirection of funds from those programs to provide Cal IIP grants. The Committee notes that the Author is requesting another one-time appropriation of $50 million in the 2026-27 state budget to renew funding for Cal IIP grants. The Budget Act of 2026 (AB 109 (Gabriel), Chapter 19, Statutes of 2026, and related budget amendments and trailer bills) does not include this appropriation. The bill will also result in likely absorbable costs to CPCFA to continue Cal IIP administration with SBAF funds.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Coalition for Community Investment (source)
3core
Access Plus Capital
AltCap California
AmPac Business Capital
LISC Bay Area
Beneficial State Bank
California Capital Financial Development Corporation
California Community Reinvestment Corporation
California Farmlink
Cameo Network
Century Housing Corporation

Civic Community Partners
Clearinghouse CDFI
Community Vision Capital and Consulting
Excite Credit Union
Five Rivers Loan Fund, INC.
Genesis LA
Global Finance CDFI LLC
Housing Trust Fund Ventura County
Housing Trust Silicon Valley
Inclusive Action for the City
Lendistry
Low Income Investment Fund
Main Street Launch
Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, INC.
Nonprofit Finance Fund
North Edge Business Financing and Community Development
Pacific Community Ventures
Pcr Business Finance
The Alliance CDFI
Working Solutions

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note that "As California families and businesses continue to face mounting pressures, from housing and childcare costs to increasing barriers to capital, CDFIs like PCV help address these challenges by providing flexible, responsible financing for small businesses, affordable housing, and community investments that create real opportunity.

Cal IIP has proven to be an effective investment in California communities by strengthening the capacity of CDFIs to deploy capital where it is needed most. The program has helped community lenders expand financing for businesses, housing, community facilities, and other projects that support economic development across the state.

As demand for affordable capital continues to grow, it is important that California maintain tools that help CDFIs meet community needs. SB 700 provides a practical solution to ensure continued support for Cal IIP and the communities that depend on CDFI financing."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/24/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: McKinnor

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/26/26 18:41:11

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 747
Author: Wiener (D) and Wahab (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 1/13/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 1/22/26
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 30-10, 1/27/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Civil rights: deprivation of federal constitutional rights, privileges, and immunities

SOURCE: Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Prosecutors Alliance Action
Protect Democracy United

DIGEST: This bill establishes, on an urgency basis, a cause of action for the violation of a person's constitutional rights by a government official, subject to specified immunities and defenses.

Assembly Amendments added findings and declarations regarding the Legislature's intent; removed venue provisions; clarified that the cause of action may be filed only against a natural person; clarified the availability of defenses; removed the discretionary award of expert fees to a prevailing plaintiff; prevent an action under the measure from being filed if there has already been a final judgment on the merits for a related claim; and added an urgency clause.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Provides that the U.S. Constitution (Const.), and the Laws of the United States, are the supreme law of the land. (U.S. Const., art. VI, cl. 2.)

2) Provides that every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except as provided. (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1983 ("Section 1983").)

3) Establishes the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), which authorizes injured parties to bring certain tort suits against the United States, in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances, except as provided. (28 U.S.C. §§ 1346, 2671 et seq.)

4) Provides that the above remedies are exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding for money damages by reason of the same subject matter against the employee whose act or omission gave rise to the claim or against the estate of such employee. Any other civil action or proceeding for money damages arising out of or relating to the same subject matter against the employee or the employee's estate is precluded without regard to when the act or omission occurred. (28 U.S.C. § 2679 ("Westfall Act").)

Existing state law establishes the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act (Tom Bane Act), which provides that if a person, whether or not acting under color of law, interferes by threat, intimidation, or coercion, or attempts to so interfere, with the exercise or enjoyment of rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or of the rights secured by the Constitution or laws of this state, the Attorney General, or any district attorney or city attorney, or the person whose exercise or enjoyment of

rights was interfered with, or attempted to be interfered with, may institute a civil action for damages. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 52.1.)

This bill:

1) Makes findings and declarations regarding the Legislature's intent regarding the cause of action established by this measure, including the following:

   a) This measure does not provide for any substantive rights, but is intended only to ensure that an individual has a cause of action for violations of the United States Constitution.

   b) The defense of absolute or qualified immunity, as added by this measure, for any defendant, is identical to the defense available to a person sued under Section 1983 under like circumstances, and the defense should reflect future developments to Section 1983 defenses so that the defenses remain identical; but nothing is intended to alter or amend current statutory or decisional law regarding the application of qualified or absolute immunity to any other provision of California law.

   c) Nothing in this measure is intended to alter or amend current statutory or decisional law regarding the Tom Bane Act.

   d) A violation of the United States Constitution is an essential element of any action brought under this measure, and therefore necessarily present questions of federal constitutional law, and nothing in the measure should be construed to limit, constrain, or weigh against the exercise of any right of removal that currently exists under federal law.

2) Establishes the No Kings Act.

3) Provides that every natural person who, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of this state or any person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the United States Constitution, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except as provided.

4) Provides that "color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage" includes color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of the United States and of any state or territory or the District of Columbia, and that a "natural person" does not include a federal, state, or local official who is sued in their capacity for monetary relief.

5) Provides that a defendant in an action brought under 3) may assert, and shall receive the benefit of, a defense of absolute or qualified immunity only to the same extent as a person sued under Section 1983.

   a) The measure shall not be construed to make an absolute or qualified immunity defense broader or narrower than that defense would be if asserted under like circumstances in a Section 1983 action.

   b) These provisions apply only to proceedings brought pursuant to 3) and do not later, amend, create, or support a qualified or absolute immunity defense, or any rule or decision governing such a defense, in any other action or proceeding brought under any other provision of California law.

6) Provides that nothing in the measure shall be construed to waive or abrogate any defense of sovereign immunity otherwise available to a party; this provision applies only to proceedings brought under 3) and does not alter, amend, create, or support a sovereign immunity defense in any other action or proceeding brought under any other provision of California law.

7) Applies retroactively to March 1, 2025, provided that, for any claim for a violation of the United States Constitution that occurred between March 1, 2025, and the effective date of this law, the only monetary damages that shall be available pursuant hereto for that constitutional violation are nominal and compensatory damages; except that an action may not be brought under 3) if, before the effective date of the measure, a court of competent jurisdiction entered a final judgment on the merits determining whether the conduct in question deprived the injured party of rights secured by the United States Constitution, as specified.

8) Includes a severability clause.

9) Includes an urgency clause.

Background

Under federal law, specifically Section 1983, a cause of action is provided to those whose rights are violated under color of law. However, this does not afford a cause of action where the defendants are federal officials. Historically, plaintiffs have relied on a court-made doctrine to bring such actions, however courts have recently been increasingly resistant to inferring a right of action against federal defendants. Additionally, existing statutory paths to seeking remedies, at both the state and federal levels, are onerous and provided only limited relief.

This bill establishes the "No Kings Act." It creates a state level analogue of Section 1983, allowing for a cause of action against governmental officials when their constitutional rights have been violated. It does not bestow individuals with any additional substantive rights—instead, it establishes a more explicit cause of action to vindicate their constitutional rights. This bill imports the same immunities currently afforded governmental defendants under existing law. Given the recent incidents in which federal officials are alleged to have unlawfully intruded on Californians' rights, this bill applies retroactively to March 1, 2025, as provided, except where a court has already entered a final judgment on the merits on the plaintiff's claim, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to the trial courts to adjudicate a new category of civil action. Because the bill creates a new cause of action and authorizes recovery of attorney's fees, costs, and expert fees, it may prompt filings that would not otherwise be brought and produce lengthier, more complex proceedings. It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in 2025-26.

2) Costs of an unknown but potentially significant amount for litigation defense exposure (General Fund, special funds, local funds) to state and local officials newly subject to suit under this cause of action, plus possible increases in liability insurance costs. Because 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 and the Bane Act already permit constitutional-tort actions against state and local actors, this exposure may be limited in practice, but the additional state pathway could increase filings, motion practice, and defense costs.

3) Costs of an unknown but potentially significant amount for litigation defense costs (General Fund) to the Department of Justice. To the extent the statute is challenged in court, any costs to defend its constitutionality would be borne by the Department of Justice

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (co-source)

Prosecutors Alliance Action (co-source)
Protect Democracy United (co-source)
ACLU California Action
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, INC.
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Consumer Attorneys of California
County of Sonoma
Courage California
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Gente Organizada
Inclusive Action for the City
Los Angeles County Democratic Party
National Union of Healthcare Workers
San Bernardino Community Service Center, Inc.
Smart Justice California
Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Public Counsel
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
University of California Student Association
Visión y Compromiso

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California District Attorneys Association
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Peace Officers Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
Claremont Police Officers Association

Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles Police Protective League
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside County Sheriff's Office
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The sponsors of this bill, Protect Democracy United, the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, and Prosecutors Alliance Action argue:

> SB 747 is necessary to correct an imbalance in how federal, state, and local officials are held accountable to the Constitution. While a federal law, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, allows people to sue state and local officials for constitutional violations, no equivalent federal law exists for suing federal officials. Instead, people injured by federal officials have historically relied on a "*Bivens* action"—a limited, implied right to sue directly under the Constitution.

Making matters worse, the Supreme Court has sharply curtailed the availability of Bivens actions in recent years. And as *Bivens* has been narrowed, a dangerous gap has emerged: federal officers often have *de facto* immunity and cannot be sued for damages, even for willful violations of constitutional rights. This disparity—where federal officers operate without the same accountability as state and local actors—violates the longstanding and foundational legal principle that "every right, when withheld, must have a remedy, and every injury its proper redress." *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137, 147 (1803).

Senate Bill 747 closes that accountability gap. By providing for a clear statutory pathway to sue any official—federal, state, or local—who violates the Constitution, it affirms that the United States Constitution (and not the whims of any governmental official) is the supreme law of the United States. Most

importantly, by providing for a universal remedy for violations of the United States Constitution, SB 747 will ensure that Californians can exercise their constitutional rights knowing they are enforceable rights, not just hollow promises.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the California State Sheriffs' Association:

Existing state law already protects against and provides meaningful avenues to address alleged civil rights violations. The Tom Bane Civil Rights Act allows a civil action to be brought if a person interferes, by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment of a person's rights secured by federal or state Constitutions or laws. However, in attempting to fill a perceived deficiency in federal law, SB 747 creates a new state law cause of action that is not limited in scope to actions taken by federal agents and excludes the important safeguard contained in existing state law that the alleged violation of rights occurs through threat, intimidation, or coercion. This opens the door for state-level accusations of civil rights violations by California officers based on disputes that fail to include any specific intent to harm. Society asks peace officers to make split-second decisions on matters of life and liberty, a fact that must be recognized when considering a measure that will promote second-guessing of a public employee's actions made in good faith.

While the measure attempts to define the types of immunity claims that may be asserted in actions authorized by the bill, the fact remains that SB 747 opens the door to lawsuits that today generally do not meet the longstanding thresholds for these types of serious allegations to be filed under state law. Also, given the history of qualified immunity jurisprudence, it is unclear whether the bill's language will be sufficient to convey the immunity it purports to grant to peace officers.

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/25/26 14:16:40

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 758
Author: Umberg (D) and Menjivar (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 1/13/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Pérez, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 1/22/26
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0, 1/27/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public health: nitrous oxide

SOURCE: League of California Cities; California Narcotics Officers' Association

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a tobacco retailer, as defined, from selling nitrous oxide at a retail location.

Assembly Amendments specify that "a retailer" does include a convenience store and authorizes local governments to adopt an ordinance imposing greater restrictions on the retail sale of nitrous oxide than those imposed by the provisions of this bill provided that the ordinance does not restrict legitimate uses, including,

but not limited to, medical, dentistry, food preparation, industrial, manufacturing, and automotive services.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Makes it a misdemeanor to sell, furnish, administer, distribute, give away, or offer to sell, furnish, administer, distribute, or give away a device, canister, tank, or receptacle containing nitrous oxide to a person under 18 years of age. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 381c.)

2) Makes it a misdemeanor to dispense or distribute nitrous oxide to a person if the dispenser or distributor of the nitrous oxide knows or should know that the person is going to use the nitrous oxide for the purpose of intoxication, and that person proximately causes great bodily injury or death to himself, herself, or another person. (Pen. Code, § 381d.)

3) Requires that a person who dispenses or distributes nitrous oxide record each transaction in a written or electronic document. (Pen. Code, § 381e.)

4) Provides that the person dispensing or distributing the nitrous oxide require the purchaser to sign the document recording the transaction, provide a complete residential address, and present valid government-issued photo identification. Existing law also requires that the person dispensing or distributing the nitrous oxide sign and date the document and retain the document at the person's business address for one year from the date of the transaction for inspection. (Pen. Code, § 381e.)

5) Requires that the document signed by the purchaser include all of the following:

    a) That inhalation of nitrous oxide outside of a clinical setting may have dangerous health effects.
    b) That it is a violation of state law to possess nitrous oxide with the intent to breathe, inhale, or ingest it for the purpose of intoxication.
    c) That it is a violation of state law to knowingly distribute or dispense nitrous oxide to a person who intends to breathe, inhale, or ingest it for the purpose of intoxication.
    d) (Pen. Code, § 381e.)

6) Defines “retailer,” for purposes of the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act of 2003, as a person who engages in this state in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products directly to the public from a retail location. Provides that retailer includes a person who operates vending machines from which cigarettes or tobacco products are sold in this state. (Business and Professions (Bus. & Prof.) Code, § 29971, subd. (r).)

7) Defines “retail location” as both of the following: any building from which cigarettes or tobacco products are sold at retail; and vending machine. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 29971, subd. (s).)

8) Defines “grocery department” to mean an area within a general retail merchandise store which is engaged primarily in the retail sale of packaged food, rather than food prepared for immediate consumption on or off the premises. (Civil (Civ.) Code, § 7100, subd. (c)(3).)

9) Defines “grocery store” to mean a store engaged primarily in the retail sale of packaged food, rather than food prepared for consumption on the premises. (Civ. Code, § 7100, subd. (c)(4).)

This bill:

1) Prohibits a retailer of tobacco products from selling nitrous oxide at a retail location.

2) Specifies that a retailer does not include a grocery store or a general retail merchandise store with a grocery department, as defined.

Background

Nitrous oxide is a colorless, odorless to sweet-smelling gas used to manage pain and anxiety in dentistry as well as other clinical settings. (American Dental Association, Nitrous Oxide <https://www.ada.org/resources/ada-library/oral-health-topics/nitrous-oxide .) In addition, it is used in food preparation and as an oxidizer in model rockets and motor vehicle racing.

Nitrous oxide is also misused as a recreational drug and produces short-lived euphoric and hallucinogenic effects. It is consumed in the form of whippets—balloons filled with the gas via small, pressurized canisters designed to be used in whipped cream dispensers. Nitrous oxide has become increasingly popular,

particularly among teens and young adults, due to its low cost and availability online and in grocery and convenience stores, gas stations, and shops that sell vapes and other tobacco-related products. (Centers for Disease and Control, *Notes from the Field: Recreational Nitrous Oxide Misuse—Michigan, 2019-2023* (Apr. 10, 2025) <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/74/wr/mm7412a3.htm .) Short-term side effects include slurred speech, dizziness, and headaches. (American Addiction Centers, *Nitrous Oxide (Whippet) Abuse, Side Effects, & Treatment* (Dec. 31. 2024) <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/inhalant-abuse/nitrous-oxide-whippets .) Although nitrous oxide use is often perceived by those using it as safe or harmless, repeated use can cause severe neurologic, cardiovascular, and psychiatric effects, including hallucinations, delusions, organ damage, nerve damage, seizures, coma, and death. (*Id*.)

This bill prohibits a retailer of tobacco products from selling nitrous oxide at a retail location, and specifies that "retailer" does not include a grocery store or grocery department but does include a convenience store.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) estimates costs of $159,000 in 2026-27 and $2,000 in 2027-28 and ongoing for implementation activities, including providing notifications, answering taxpayer inquiries, issuing and processing misdemeanor citations, and license suspensions or revocations after convictions, and handling appeals. (Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund). CDTFA states it cannot estimate effects on revenues from lost license fees, court-ordered fines, or losses in sales and use taxes.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Narcotic Officers' Association (co-source)
League of California Cities (co-source)
American Kratom Association
Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Botanicals for Better Health and Wellness
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Reserve Peace Officers Association

City of Alameda
City of Brea
City of Buena Park
City of Carlsbad
City of El Cerrito
City of Garden Grove
City of Irvine
City of Paramount
City of Pico Rivera
City of Stanton
City of Sunnyvale
City of Tulare
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
County of Humboldt
County of Kern
County of Tulare
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Dental Board of California
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Global Kratom Coalition
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside County Sheriff's Office
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Rural County Representatives of California
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

7ohBlack
California Public Defenders Association
California Retail and Distribution Fairness Association
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Consumer Choice Center
Doctors for Drug Reform Policy
Drug Policy Alliance
End It For Good
Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust
Initiate Justice
Moms for America Action
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/25/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: McKinnor

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 13:18:55

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 769
Author: Caballero (D), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 27

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/21/25
AYES: Ashby, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Niello, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/29/25
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 35-2, 5/28/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Choi, Jones
NO VOTE RECORDED: Limón, Ochoa Bogh, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: The Golden State Infrastructure Corporation Act

SOURCE: California State Treasurer Fiona Ma

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Golden State Infrastructure Corporation (Corporation) within the State Treasurer's Office as a not-for-profit corporation for the purpose of financing infrastructure projects.

Assembly Amendments add coauthors, update definitions, require the Board to submit a report evaluating equitable access of all public agencies to financing from the Corporation, specify that projects financed by the Corporation are public works for which prevailing wages must be paid, limits funding extended by the Corporation to one-third of the total cost of the infrastructure project, and provides that for two years, at least 15 percent of all General Fund moneys in the Corporation Fund must be reserved for providing financing for infrastructure projects to priority governmental entities.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) within the Governor's Office for the purpose of serving as the lead state entity for economic strategy and marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment and economic growth. (Government Code (GC) §§ 12096 – 12098.5)

2) Establishes the Bergeson-Peace Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Act and creates the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank). (GC § 63000 *et seq*.)

3) Establishes the GO-Biz as the administrator of the Fund. (GC § 63021)

4) Authorizes IBank to make loans, issue bonds, and provide other economic development assistance, among other things. (GC § 63050 *et seq*.)

This bill:

1) Establishes the (Corporation) within the State Treasurer's Office as a not-for-profit corporation for the purpose of financing infrastructure projects, governed by a Board of Directors (Board) comprised of various state officials or their designees and Governor's appointees with experience financing real property improvements and experience designing, developing, or constructing real property improvements. Subjects the corporation officers to the Political Reform Act of 1974. Requires the Treasurer to appoint an executive director and vests them with various powers. Authorizes the Board Chair to appoint a general counsel, a chief financial officer, and a chief operating officer. Grants

the Corporation various powers related to operations, including but not limited to making loans and borrowing money or issuing bonds and using the proceeds to finance infrastructure projects.

2) Absolves the state from being liable for any Corporation obligations and specifies that the Corporation is not required to pay taxes, other than those specified, with respect to any real or personal property the Corporation acquires or upon any Corporation income.

3) Tasks the Corporation executive director with creating a website that includes, at a minimum, a description of the past, present, and planned future activities of the Corporation, Corporation operational policies and agendas, meeting minutes, Board resolutions for the prior 12 months, and audited financial statements for the previous fiscal year. Requires the Corporation to submit a report on its activities to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Legislative Analyst's Office that is also posted on its website. Requires the Board to adopt Corporation operational policies.

4) Specifies that the Board, can meet in closed session to consider whether to approve or modify a financing in connection with an infrastructure company for an infrastructure project or to discuss the performance of any financing and requires the Board chair to announce in general terms the type, amount, and identity of the recipient of any financing to an infrastructure company for an infrastructure project approved during the closed session. Finds that in order to maintain the confidentiality of infrastructure companies' private financial information, it is necessary to exempt these records from public disclosure and to allow consideration of investments with private companies in a closed board session. Treats the Corporation as a public agency for purposes of bringing an action in Superior Court.

5) Authorizes the Corporation to extend financing to either an infrastructure company, a governmental entity, or a combination thereof, upon the affirmative vote of at least a quorum of the board. If a financing is approved by the Board, the Corporation may extend financing to the infrastructure company, or the governmental entity, or both, as applicable, from any source of available funds as determined by the executive director, including, but not limited to, the proceeds of any revenue bonds issued by the Corporation. Authorizes the Corporation to issue its revenue bonds to provide moneys for the Corporation's purposes, which may include, but shall not be limited to, providing financing to one or more governmental entities or infrastructure companies for one or more infrastructure projects. Authorizes the corporation to, out of any funds

available, purchase its bonds. Specifies that the issuance of bonds pursuant to this law does not directly or indirectly or contingently obligate the state or any political subdivision of the state to levy or to pledge any form of taxation or to make any appropriation for their payment.

6) Establishes a Golden State Infrastructure Corporation Fund (Corporation Fund) and specifies that all moneys in the Corporation Fund are continuously appropriated.

7) Requires the Board to submit a report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Legislative Analyst's Office, and post on its website, evaluating the equitable access of all public agencies to financing from the infrastructure corporation fund. Specifies factors of the public agencies for purposes of this report and requires the report to include findings and recommendations to ensure equitable access to the infrastructure corporation fund across public agencies and local agencies of varying economic conditions, including, but not limited to, recommendations for changes in state law and to the Corporation's assessment policies, procedures, and outreach practices.

8) Specifies that projects financed by the Corporation are public works for which prevailing wages must be paid and that as a condition of receiving financing for a project from the Corporation, the project developer (unless the project is covered by a project labor agreement) must obtain an enforceable commitment from any entity undertaking construction, demolition, alteration, installation, repair, or maintenance work that the entity, and its contractors and subcontractors at every tier, will use a skilled and trained workforce to perform all work within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades. Clarifies that any reference to a "public entity" includes both a governmental entity and an infrastructure company.

9) Limits funding extended by the Corporation to one-third of the total cost of the infrastructure project, and provides that for two years, at least 15 percent of all General Fund moneys in the Corporation Fund must be reserved for providing financing for infrastructure projects to priority governmental entities

10) Makes various findings and declarations that improvements and additions to the existing infrastructure landscape are vital to supporting the growth of the California economy, businesses and governments depend on a well-conceived and functioning system of public improvements, the current pace of infrastructure development and construction in California is not sufficient to meet the needs of California's population and economy, it is a public policy necessity to support the expansion and enhancement of infrastructure,

California needs to create an entity structured with broad authority to provide financing, and to participate in the financial markets, to fund the development and improvement projects of key infrastructure projects, and that the public policies and responsibilities of California, cannot be fully obtained without the creation of the Golden State Infrastructure Corporation.

Background

GO-Biz. In February 2010, the Little Hoover Commission undertook a review of the state's economic and workforce development programs. In its final report, *Making up for Lost Ground: Creating a Governor's Office of Economic Development*, it analyzed the status and effectiveness of current programs since the 2003 demise of the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency (TTCA) and recommended the creation of a new governmental entity to fill the void left by the dismantled agency.

The report called for a single entity that would promote greater economic development, foster job creation, serve as a policy advisor and deliver specific services (i.e., permitting, tax, regulatory, and other information) directly to the California business community. In April 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-05-10 as a means to operationalize the report recommendations including the creation of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).

In October 2011, the Governor signed AB 29 (John A. Pérez, Chapter 475, Statutes of 2011), which effectively codified GOED and changed its name to GO-Biz. Since its inception, the office has served thousands of businesses, 95 percent of which are small businesses. The most frequent types of assistance include help with permit streamlining, starting a business, relocation and expansion of businesses, and regulatory challenges.

In March 2012, Governor Brown initiated a reorganization process to realign the state's administrative structure. Key changes include dismantling of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and the shifting of a number of key programs to GO-Biz including the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, the California Travel and Tourism Commission, the California Film Commission, the Film California First Program, and the Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank). Currently, GO-Biz administers the following programs and units:

- Made In California program for the purpose of encouraging consumer product awareness and to foster the purchases of products manufactured in California.

- The California Inclusive Innovation Hub Program (iHub2) to incubate and/or accelerate technology and science-based firms, with a focus on underserved regions and communities.

- The California Competes Tax Credit Program under which "businesses who want to come to California or stay and grow in California" can receive an income tax credit.

- The California Business Investment Services Unit, which provides no-fee, tailored site selection services to employers and others who may be considering California for relocation or expansion.

- The California Business Portal, which provides information to California businesses about common questions, permitting, financial options, and more.

- The California Community Reinvestment Grants Program, which was included in Proposition 64, authorized GO-Biz to award grants to local health departments and certain nonprofit organizations to support communities disproportionately affected by the War on Drugs.

- Office of the Small Business Advocate which provides information and assistance to small businesses.

- The Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Infrastructure Unit which works to accelerate the deployment of ZEV infrastructure.

- The International Affairs and Business Development Unit, which serves as California's primary point of contact for expanding international trade and investment relations. This unit focuses on foreign direct investment (services for foreign investors, foreign investment technical assistance, and the EB-5 Investor Visa Program), international trade promotion (STEP program, trade missions, export assistance, and the California-China Trade Office), and international agreements.

IBank and Infrastructure Loans. According to its website, IBank exists within GO-Biz and "was created in 1994 to finance public infrastructure and private development that promote a healthy climate for jobs, contribute to a strong

economy and improve the quality of life in California communities. IBank has broad authority to issue tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds, provide financing to public agencies, provide credit enhancements, acquire or lease facilities, and leverage State and Federal funds. IBank's current programs include the Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Loan Program, California Lending for Energy and Environmental Needs (CLEEN) Center, the Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan fund, Small Business Finance Center and the Bond Financing Program."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill will result in one-time costs of an unknown, but likely significant amount, ranging from the tens of millions to hundreds of millions of dollars, presumably General Fund, for the Fund's initial capital base to support investments and ongoing General Fund costs of approximately $1.1 million for the State Treasurer's Office to hire five additional permanent staff and support associated operating expenses and equipment to establish the Corporation.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma (source)
American Society of Civil Engineers-Region 9
Associated General Contractors of California
Associated General Contractors, California Chapters
Associated General Contractors-San Diego Chapter
Association of California Cities - Orange County
AV Edge (Antelope Valley Economic Development & Growth Enterprise)
California Alliance for Jobs
California Public Banking Alliance
California Transit Association
City of Los Alamitos
City of Merced
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
North County Transit District
Pacific Gas and Electric Company and its Affiliated Entities
Rural County Representatives of California
San Diego Gas and Electric Company
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received for this version of the bill.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: California State Treasurer Fiona Ma writes that "Our bridges, transit systems, energy grids, and water infrastructure are aging, overburdened, and in some cases, dangerously out of date…California is preparing to host some of the world's most high-profile events in the coming years, including the 2026 World Cup, the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and multiple Super Bowls. These events will draw millions of visitors and global attention – but we do not currently have the infrastructure to support them at the scale required. If we want to showcase California at its best and ensure these events benefit our communities, we must begin investing now."

Suppoerts say this bill provides essential financial tools that will directly lead to substantial cost savings and accelerate vital infrastructure projects, ultimately benefiting local communities and the state's broader economy. According to supporters, California cannot afford to wait while critical infrastructure needs go unmet. Establishing the Golden State Infrastructure Corporation is a necessary step toward building resilient, locally controlled resources that maximize California's funding mechanisms to support projects across the state.

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/26/26 16:44:53

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 772
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/29/25
AYES: Wahab, Seyarto, Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 34-0, 5/15/25 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Richardson, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Cervantes, Grove, Padilla, Reyes, Rubio

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Infill Infrastructure Grant Program of 2019: applications: eligibility

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes a number of revisions to the Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG) Program.

Assembly Amendments make updates to IIG to facilitate developments in areas eligible for streamlined, ministerial approval; authorize natural infrastructure solutions to be funded, as specified; expand the definition of "walkability"; and, make other clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the IIG at the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

2) Streamlines the approval process for certain housing developments along commercial corridors and in commercial zones, as specified, pursuant to AB 2011 (Wicks, Chapter 647, Statutes of 2022).

3) Streamlines the approval for certain infill housing developments, pursuant to SB 35 (Wiener, Chapter 366, Statues of 2017).

This bill:

1) Changes the definition of "qualifying infill project" areas for the purposes of the IIG program to include parcels that are adjacent to parcels that have previously been developed in addition to ones with existing development.

2) Adds to the list of priorities that HCD considers in ranking applicants for IIG funding for both "qualifying infill area" and "catalytic qualifying infill area" to include:
   a) Walkability to essential services or businesses; and
   b) On-demand transit services that provide or support new, restored, or expanded routes.

3) Adds to the definition of "qualifying infill area" a capital improvement project for which funding is requested is necessary and integral to make and are suitable for development under AB 2011 (Wicks, Chapter 647, Statutes of 20220.

4) Expands the areas where a "qualifying infill project," "qualifying infill area," or "catalytic qualifying infill area" can qualify for funding to include sites that are eligible for AB 2011 (Wicks, Chapter 647, Statutes of 2022) or SB 35 (Wiener, Chapter 366, Statues of 2017).

5) Changes the definition of capital improvement projects that may be funded under the IIG as follows:

a) Replaces "streets and roads" as a use to streets or roads that are publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel and that will serve as a connector within a qualifying infill project or qualifying infill area; and
b) Add the use of funds for "nature infrastructure solutions" that reduce the risk of climate change-driven natural disasters like wildfire, flooding, heat, and sea-level rise, or provide other social benefits.

6) Allows a city, county, or city and county to apply for a "qualified infill area" or a "catalyst qualifying infill area" without having a developer as a co-applicant.

7) Adds a definition of a "major transit stop" that includes existing and planned stops in the regional transportation plan.

8) Changes the definition of an "urbanized area" to an urbanized area as defined by the United States Census Bureau rather than for sites in unincorporated areas that the site is within a designated urban service area that is designated in the local general plan for urban development and is served by the public sewer and water.

9) Adds a definition of "walkability" to mean the parcels or parcel where the development will occur is within one mile of six or more of any of the following amenities:
a) A supermarket or grocery store;
b) A public park;
c) A community center;
d) A pharmacy or drugstore;
e) A medical clinic or hospital;
f) A public library; or
g) A school that maintains a kindergarten or any of grades one to 12, inclusive;
h) Food bank;
i) A licensed childcare facility as identified by the State Department of Social Services;
j) A community or recreation center accessible to the general public;
k) A bank or credit union;
l) A post office; and
m) A laundry service.

10) Adds a definition of "on-demand transit service" to include shuttles, vans, circulators, paratransit services, and private sector transit solutions commonly

referred to as microunits that are operated or contracted by a public entity. Requires the transit service to serve the general public and be demand responsible and capable of serving multiple riders simultaneously not only a single rider service. Defined "demand responsive" to mean a route or frequency of service is dispatched in real time based on customer demand.

Background

IIG. The original IIG program, now commonly known as IIG of 2007, was established pursuant to Proposition 6, the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006; it received additional funds through Proposition 1, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018. In 2019, the Legislature allocated $500 million General Fund moneys to IIG and updated the program; the new version of the program is commonly known as IIG of 2019.

IIG of 2019 promotes infill housing development by providing financial assistance for capital improvement projects that are an integral part of, or necessary to facilitate the development of, affordable and mixed-income housing. Under IIG of 2019, grants are available in the form of gap funding for infrastructure, factory-built housing components, and adaptive reuse necessary for specific residential or mixed-use infill developments. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, the creation, development, or rehabilitation of parks or open space; water, sewer, or other utility service improvements (including internet and electric vehicle infrastructure); streets; roads; transit station structured parking; transit linkages or facilities; facilities that support pedestrian or bicycle transit; traffic mitigation, sidewalk, or streetscape improvements; factory-built housing components; adaptive reuse; and site preparation or demolition.

Comments

Author statement. "Many former commercial and underutilized areas have significant potential for the development of housing at scale, but lack the public infrastructure necessary to support higher-density residential development. The Bridge District is a perfect example of smart growth. It is a waterfront urban mixed-use development located along the western side of the Sacramento River. A former industrial area, it is now a vibrant community easily accessible to downtown Sacramento via the Tower Bridge, with the potential to eventually support 5,210 new homes and 7,290,000 square feet of commercial development. The Bridge District required vision and state and local investments. Reforms to the IIG Program have the potential to catalyze investment in underutilized lands, such as vacant shopping centers or strip malls, to support the development of

housing with infrastructure that has been upgraded to accommodate growth. Aiding local governments to transform cities into denser, more livable communities will also mitigate against the impacts of climate change. The bill would also authorize the IIG Program to fund green infrastructure improvements, such as landscape features that can help mitigate flooding risks."

Updating IIG of 2019. Supporters of this bill note that IIG of 2019 is a key tool in helping to address infrastructure challenges – such as upgrades to water, sewer, and transit access – that make it harder to build multifamily housing. They also note that since this program has not been significantly updated since it was established, and precludes some housing developments from accessing funds from IIG in areas that are walkable to specified services and retail centers.

Limited program funding. HCD released the Multifamily Finance Super NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) on February 13th, announcing the availability of $382 million through Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program, IIG of 2007, IIG of 2019, and the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program.[1] Of this total, $20 million is provided for IIG of 2007 and IIG of 2019 – the total amount of remaining funds in these programs. This bill would apply to any future funds that are appropriated to IIG. SB 417 (Limon/Rivas, Chapter 16, Statutes of 2026) enacts the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026, which, if adopted by the voters in the statewide election November 2, 2026, would authorize $11.25 billion in general obligation bonds to fund specified housing programs, including $500 million for IIG of 2019.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

- Ongoing General Fund cost pressures to provide funding to the IIG Program to accommodate the expanded allowable projects under the bill. The IIG Program is oversubscribed and the 2026 budget act does not provide an allocation for additional grants. SB 417 (Limon), Chapter 16, Statutes of 2026, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026, which includes $500 million for the IIG Program is a potential funding source, should it pass at the November 3, 2026 statewide general election.

[1] *Multifamily Finance SuperNOFA Program 2025 Notice of Funding Availability.* (HCD, February 13, 2025). Accessible here**:** https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/supernofa/2025-mfsn-round-3-nofa.pdf

- HCD estimates minor and absorbable costs to make minor modifications to the IIG Program guidelines, application materials, and application review tools. Because program guidelines are generally updated with every funding round, HCD indicates the workload created by this bill can be absorbed by current staffing levels.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Abundant Housing LA
California Forward
California Yimby
Center for Biological Diversity
Council of Infill Builders
Endangered Habitats League
Enterprise Community Partners, INC.
Epic - Environmental Protection Information Center
Greenbelt Alliance
House Sacramento
Housing Action Coalition
Lisc San Diego
Livable Communities Initiative
New Way Homes
Prosperity California
Save the Bay
Seamless Bay Area
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Sierra Business Council
Streets for All
The Central Valley Urban Institute
Transform
Wildlands Network
Yimby Action

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/25/26 13:07:32

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 802
Author: Ashby (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

Prior Senate votes not relevant.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Housing finance and development: Sacramento Regional Housing and Homelessness Joint Powers Authority Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill enacts the Sacramento Regional Housing and Homelessness Joint Powers Authority Act, which requires the County of Sacramento and five cities to form a joint powers authority to cover housing and homelessness.

Assembly Amendments deleted the contents of the bill and inserted the current provisions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes, under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, two or more public agencies to use their powers in common if they sign a joint powers agreement. Such an agreement may create a new, separate government called a joint powers agency or joint powers authority (JPA). Agencies that may exercise joint powers include federal agencies, state departments, counties, cities, special districts, school districts, federally recognized Indian tribes, and even other JPAs.

2) Authorizes public agencies to use the JPA law and the related Marks-Roos Local Bond Pooling Act to form bond pools to finance public works, working

capital, insurance needs, and other public benefit projects. Bond pooling saves money on interest rates and finance charges, and allows smaller local agencies to enter the bond market. Because a JPA is an entity separate from its members, bonds issued by JPAs do not have to be approved by voters.

This bill:

1) Enacts the Sacramento Regional Housing and Homelessness Joint Powers Authority Act, which requires, by January 1, 2028, the County of Sacramento and the Cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Folsom to participate in and work together to establish a JPA designed to make a meaningful difference from people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

2) Requires the above local agencies to do all the following to satisfy the above requirement:

   a) Bring elected officials from across the region together through the JPA that provides program and policy guidance and establishes shared goals to improve the efficacy of the region's homeless response system and affordable housing resources;

   b) Bring the oversight and functions of the Sacramento City and County Continuum of Care under the jurisdiction of the joint powers authority, while maintaining the federally required composition and integrity of the continuum of care; and

   c) Work collaboratively with Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA) to develop goals and action plans that address homelessness, affordable housing, and advance a true housing continuum regionally.

3) Requires the JPA to do all the following:

   a) Set system performance goals and, at a minimum, regularly review state and federal performance metrics to address housing and homelessness;

   b) Collaborate to update the regionally coordinated homelessness action plan as necessary and oversee implementation of the plan;

   c) Coordinate on delivery of prevention, outreach, shelter, and housing programs, with local jurisdictions retaining oversight, accountability, and

control over land use decisions and programs administered by the local jurisdictions;

d) Explore better integration with other systems working in homelessness and housing, including county-administered behavioral health, child and adult welfare, and social safety net services;

e) Align regional funding for housing and homelessness, with local jurisdictions retaining final control and approval over local, state, and federal funds eligible to be administered by local jurisdictions;

f) Comply with state laws regarding local agency meetings;

g) Provide direction to the continuum of care lead agency;

h) Provide oversight over continuum of care functions, including the Homeless Management Information System, the Coordinated Access System, and the Point-in-Time Count;

i) Develop a committee structure to ensure community voice continues to be incorporated;

j) Include the County of Sacramento, the Cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Folsom;

k) Be developed as a formal, robust joint powers authority;

l) Have a board that consists solely of the elected officials representing the County of Sacramento, the Cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Folsom;

m) Target both housing and homelessness;

n) Incorporate meaningful resources to provide services;

o) Have a governance structure that includes the lead entities, respectively, from both the Continuum of Care and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency; and

p) Hold monthly public meetings and incorporate public participation.

4) Provides that local jurisdictions must retain oversight and accountability over funding decisions, projects and programs they administer, including contracting for prevention, outreach, sheltering, and housing.

Background

Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) is the lead agency for the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC), and a non-profit organization formed to facilitate the provision of homeless services and housing in the Sacramento Region. In 2026, SSF estimates roughly 7,458 individuals experience homelessness every night in Sacramento County, 56.4% of which remain unsheltered.

In 1973, the County of Sacramento and the City of Sacramento formed a JPA called the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA) to address housing issues in the region. The City and County originally formed SHRA to combine the Housing Authorities for both the city and county and became the redevelopment agency for the city and county before redevelopment agencies were dissolved. It serves as the successor agency to the redevelopment agency and is responsible for winding down the activities of redevelopment, including paying down any obligations of the redevelopment agency. SHRA owns and manages thousands of residential units in the county, develops new housing, and administers federal housing choice vouchers. SHRA has a seat on Sacramento's CoC.

The 2022-2023 Sacramento County Grand Jury (SCGJ) released a report investigating the strategies, programs, and working relationships between the county and the seven incorporated cities (Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento). One of the recommendations by the SCGJ was that the County and the seven incorporated cities should implement a JPA to address homelessness by December 1, 2023.

In beginning of June 2026, the County of Sacramento and the Cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Folsom, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, and Galt signed a letter of intent to signal their shared commitment to building a more coordinated, effective regional approach to housing and homelessness.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "For over a decade, multiple Sacramento County Grand Jury reports, including in 2019 and again in 2023, have warned that the absence of a regional authority and coherent organizational structure makes it virtually impossible to use valuable resources effectively. The 2023 report described Sacramento's homelessness response as 'disjointed, lacking accountability, and often reactive rather than proactive,'

highlighting how eight separate government-funded entities operate with siloed data, conflicting goals, and inconsistent planning. SB 802 responds to this long-standing call for change by establishing the Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency, a new Joint Powers Authority. This single, coordinated agency will ensure shared decision-making, strengthen accountability, and better leverage local, state, and federal resources to address homelessness and housing insecurity across Sacramento County. All cities in the county will have the opportunity to participate and weigh in through representation on the agency's governing board. Importantly, the agency will also include people with lived experience of homelessness, along with technical experts, on its Advisory Committee, ensuring that the voices of those directly impacted help guide local solutions. By creating a regional structure with clear governance, broad city participation, community representation, and oversight, SB 802 delivers the accountability, collaboration, and leadership we need to address homelessness and housing more effectively and efficiently."

2) *Necessary?* The beauty of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act is its flexibility: local agencies can come together to form an agreement of its own design to carry out any power common to each of its members. Agreements specify a JPA's mission, structure, governing board, each member's financial obligations, and provisions for members to enter and exit the JPA, among other items. As such, local agencies do not need legislative authority for a JPA unless it requires powers not common to all its members, or when statutory certainty and specificity is preferable to the agreement's details. For example, the Legislature created the series of housing trust JPAs because the member agencies lacked the ability to issue bonds repayable from funds the JPA receives from public and private financing. Unlike these previous legislative efforts that expanded the authority local agencies had to form JPAs of their choosing, SB 802 requires the County of Sacramento and five of its largest cities to form a JPA to address housing and homelessness. These local agencies have the authority to create a JPA to address housing and homelessness without legislation. Such a JPA has been in discussions for years, but local agencies have not yet created one. SB 802 would force the creation of a JPA when locals have the authority to create one on their own. Should the Legislature set the precedent of forcing local agencies to create a JPA?

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing local costs of an unknown amount, but likely in the mid-hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars annually to Sacramento County and the cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Folsom, collectively, for staffing and other resources required to form and carry out the required duties of the JPA, pursuant to this bill.

- Because this bill mandates the formation of a JPA, and requires its members to perform certain duties, the bill creates a reimbursable state mandate. This means any costs incurred by the JPA, including costs for tasks previously performed by city or county staff at non-state expense, are potentially reimbursable by the state General Fund, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

Caity Maple, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
Karina Talamantes, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
Lisa Kaplan, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
Mai Vang, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
Rick Jennings, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
California Black Chamber of Commerce
California Yimby
Dignitymoves
Downtown Railyard Ventures
Downtown Sacramento Partnership
Fieldstead and Company, INC.
Inner Circle Foster Family Agency, Inc./inner Circle Children's Advocacy Center
LA Alliance for Human Rights
Ldk Ventures
Life Skills Training and Educational Programs, INC.
Midtown Association
Sacramento Advocates for Rail and Transit
Sacramento County Young Democrats
Sacramento Regional Business Leaders Council
Sandringham Neighborhood Association
Seiu California
Steinberg Institute
Turton Commercial Real Estate
United Public Employees
Wellspace Health
Youth Forward

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

Mayor Kevin McCarty, City of Sacramento
Rich Desmond, Supervisor, County of Sacramento
Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor, County of Sacramento
Rosario Rodriquez, Chair, Sacramento County Board of Supervisor
California Association of Realtors
California State Association of Counties
County of Sacramento
Sacramento Area Congregations Together
SacRamento Association of RealtoRs (R)
Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper
Sacramento Housing Alliance
Urban Counties of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/26/26 21:30:56

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 837
Author: Reyes (D)
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 1/12/26
AYES: Arreguín, Ochoa Bogh, Becker, Menjivar, Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 1/22/26
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 1/29/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Disaster and emergency preparedness

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC) programs to provide disaster and emergency preparedness community education specifically designed with the goals of informing older adults and people with disabilities about emergency preparedness and promoting their safety before, during, and after natural disasters and other emergency events.

Assembly Amendments make technical and clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes an Aging and Disability Resource Connection program to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports programs and to assist older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in accessing long-term services and supports programs at the local level through Aging and Disability Resource Connection programs operated jointly by area agencies on aging and independent living centers. (Welfare and Institutions Code Section (WIC) 9120)

2) Provides that area agencies on aging and independent living centers shall be the core local partners in developing Aging and Disability Resource Connection programs. Requires the California Department of Aging to assist interested and qualified area agencies on aging and independent living centers in completing an application to be designated as an Aging and Disability Resource Connection program. (WIC 9120)

3) Provides that an Aging and Disability Resource Connection program operated by an area agency on aging and an independent living center shall provide all of the following:

    a) Enhanced information and referral services and other assistance at hours that are convenient for the public.

    b) Options counseling concerning available long-term services and supports programs and public and private benefits programs.

    c) Short-term service coordination.

    d) Transition services from hospitals to home and from skilled nursing facilities to the community. (WIC 9120)

4) Provides that an Aging and Disability Resource Connection program operated by an area agency on aging and an independent living center shall do both of the following:

    a) Provide services within the geographic area served.

    b) Provide information to the public about the services provided by the program. (WIC 9120)

5) Provides that the California Department of Aging, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee within the California Department of Aging, shall develop a core model of Aging and Disability Resource Connection best practices. These best practices shall be implemented by July 1, 2022, by all Aging and Disability Resource Connection programs operated by area agencies on aging and independent living centers. To the extent feasible, the best practices shall be considered in the development and continued updating of the master plan on aging. In the development of these best practices, the department and advisory committee shall consider, at a minimum, the following practices:

    a) A person-centered counseling process.

    b) Public outreach and coordination with key referral sources, including, but not limited to, caregiver resource centers, the medical centers of the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, acute care systems, local 211 programs, local multipurpose senior service programs, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), adult day care services, and long-term services and supports providers.

    c) A formal follow-up procedure to ensure that services for which a person received a referral were received and methods for correcting service provision if needed.

    d) A model for the best ways for area agencies on aging and independent living centers to share necessary data and client information.

    e) A model for the collection and reporting of data to the California Department of Aging, which shall include, but not be limited to, the demographic information for each individual counseled, the number of consumers served by category of service, and the number of caregivers served. (WIC 9120)

6) Provides that the California Department of Aging shall review implementation of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Infrastructure Grants Program described in WIC 9121 for consideration in developing and updating the best practices model. (WIC 9120)

This bill:

1) Makes legislative findings and declarations regarding individuals who are especially vulnerable during a disaster and the challenges in adequately

supporting this population during national disasters.

2) Requires ADRCs to provide disaster and emergency preparedness community education specifically designed to help older adults and people with disabilities prepare for emergencies and ensure their safety before, during, and after natural disasters and other emergency events.

3) Allows the community education to utilize existing emergency preparedness and response tools developed by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the California Department of Aging (CDA), the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), the State Department of Developmental Services and other relevant community partners.

4) Provides Community education to raise awareness of existing available resources and guidance, including, but not limited to local alert systems; local emergency plans; information from the local fire department; information on emergency transportation and evacuation resources; and, information related to utility services during emergencies and natural disasters.

Background

Author's Statement. According to the author, "The state has long been aware that individuals with disabilities and older adults face a disproportionate risk of death during natural disasters. A 2019 audit by the California State Auditor highlighted the critical gap in emergency management agencies' ability to support these vulnerable populations, revealing a lack of guidelines for assisting these individual in cases of emergency. Recently, wildfires in Southern California claimed the lives of several individuals with disabilities, many of whom were over the age of 70. Despite the longstanding dangers faced by this community, the state has repeatedly failed to take meaningful action.

"SB 837 (Reyes) aims to address this urgent issue and ensure that we prevent further tragedies. This bill will require Aging and Disability Resource Connection programs to provide disaster and emergency preparedness training tailored to the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, equipping them with the knowledge and resources necessary to stay safe before, during, and after an emergency. Additionally, it will prioritize funding for area agencies on aging and independent living centers that provide critical transportation and evacuation services during emergencies under the California Disaster Assistance Act."

Aging and Disability Resource Connections. In 2003, the federal Administration for Community Living and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

established a joint funding opportunity through the Aging and Disability Resource Connection initiative. This initiative was designed to provide visible and trusted sources of information, one-on-one counseling, and streamlined access to long-term services and supports.

In 2015, the California Department of Aging established the Aging and Disability Resource Connection and an advisory committee to engage stakeholders in identifying and implementing strategies to strengthen, sustain, and expand Aging and Disability Resource Connection services throughout the state. The committee is the primary advisor to the California Department of Aging in the ongoing development and implementation of the state's Aging and Disability Resource Connections. Committee members include representatives from the California Departments of Aging, Health Care Services, Rehabilitation, and Veterans Affairs, as well as representatives of providers and advocates in the long-term services and supports community. California's Aging and Disability Resource Connection program was codified by AB 1200 (Cervantes, Chapter 618, Statutes of 2017).

The California Department of Aging contracts with local area agencies on aging and independent living centers, which coordinate a variety of supportive services to seniors and adults with disabilities. Not all area agencies on aging provide Aging and Disability Resource Connection services. Anyone, regardless of age, income, or disability, may receive Aging and Disability Resource Connection services.

Natural Disasters and Emergencies. Natural disasters include earthquakes, floods, extreme heat and all types of severe weather. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies wildfires as natural disasters, though not all wildfires are the result of natural events. California has experienced several devastating fires in recent years, including the Palisades Fire in 2025 and the Camp Fire in 2018. Natural disasters can occur anywhere, but they do not impact all populations equally. Research shows that "the oldest adults seem more likely to be displaced due to multiple disasters, and many older adults who are displaced face health hazards and disability: such as food and water shortages, loss of electricity, and unsanitary conditions, isolation and mental health impacts, and both cognitive and physical disabilities."[1] United States Census Bureau data shows that once displaced, 21% of people with disabilities never return home. This is four times the rate for persons without disabilities. These disproportionate impacts highlight the need for increased focus on these populations in training and resources to ensure they are protected during natural disasters and emergencies.

[1] https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12762612/

Prior/Related Legislation

AB 1069 (Bains, Chapter 445, Statutes of 2025) requires as part of disaster planning and response, an area agency on aging, independent living center, or an Aging and Disability Resource Connection program have access to an emergency shelter in order to ensure older adults and persons with disabilities receive continuous services and necessary support.

SB 352 (Reyes, Chapter 120, Statutes of 2025), as heard by this Committee, was almost identical to this bill prior to it being amended out of this committee's jurisdiction.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) OES estimates General Fund costs of $372,000 in the first year and $247,000 ongoing thereafter to support implementation. This includes contract costs of $125,000 per year for the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) to include individuals with lived disability experience to review and develop new trainings, guidance, and other documents; and one position to collaborate with the ADRCs and OAFN, develop curriculum and online modules, and provide on-demand contract instruction for ADRCs.

2) CDA anticipates minor and absorbable costs to provide information to ADRCs on existing emergency preparedness and response tools but notes the potential creation of new tools may impose GF cost pressures on the department.

   CDA also indicates GF costs of an unknown amount for ADRC programs to provide the disaster and emergency preparedness training required by the bill. The state provides an annual $10 million GF appropriation, administered by CDA, to the nearly two dozen designated ADRCs throughout the state. This bill adds additional training requirements to the ADRCs but does not provide additional funding likely necessary to develop and provide the training.

3) DOR anticipates minor and absorbable costs, to the extent that existing emergency preparedness and response tools are utilized (GF and federal funds).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
Disability Rights California
Orange County Fire Authority

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 16:48:07

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 845
Author: Pérez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/9/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/30/25
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/27/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/24/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil instruction: career technical education, career education, work-based learning, work experience education, and apprenticeships.

SOURCE: California Workforce Association
NextGen California

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to the state's framework for career technical education (CTE), work-based learning, and youth apprenticeships, including: (1) establishing definitions and common requirements for work-based learning activities; (2) expanding the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) and state special schools to offer work-based learning through work

experience education (WEE), CTE, early college credit, and other existing programs; (3) allowing pupils beginning in grade 10 to receive credit for WEE; (4) clarifying workers' compensation, liability, and student protections for work-based learning activities; and (5) establishing requirements for school-based youth apprenticeship programs registered with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS).

Assembly Amendments recast this bill to focus on expanding and integrating work-based learning activities across existing education and workforce programs. The amendments delete the provisions relating to the periodic update of career technical education (CTE) model curriculum standards and frameworks, statewide data collection on work-based learning, changes to specified CTE course sequences and articulation requirements, and state-level coordination and policymaking for school-based youth apprenticeship programs. In their place, the amendments authorize work-based learning activities within a broader range of existing programs. The amendments also expand specified WEE and work-based learning authorities to state special schools, clarify the use of work-based learning within cooperative CTE programs and community classrooms, and revise the requirements for approval of certain preapprenticeship programs.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the Department of Education (CDE) to coordinate the development of model curriculum standards for required courses of study for grades 7 to 12, including CTE courses, and to seek the advice of classroom teachers, school administrators, parents, postsecondary educators, and representatives of business and industry in developing these standards. (Education Code (EC) § 51226)

2) Requires CDE, upon adoption of the model curriculum standards for grades 7 to 12, to develop a curriculum framework that offers a blueprint for implementing CTE and to work in consultation and coordination with an advisory group that includes CTE teachers, administrators, business and industry representatives, labor organizations, and others. (EC § 51226.1)

3) Authorizes the governing board of a school district maintaining a high school to establish work-based learning or WEE programs to provide pupils with instruction in skills, attitudes, and understanding necessary for success in employment; and to approve and supervise such placements, arrange for

appropriate credit, and provide or require liability insurance. (EC § 51760 et seq.)

4) Authorizes work-based learning opportunities to be delivered by partnership academies, regional occupational centers and programs (ROCPs), and LEAs, including WEE, community classrooms, cooperative CTE programs, and job shadowing. (EC § 51760.3)

5) Requires school district governing boards to grant credit to pupils in grade 11 or higher for completion of a WEE program that meets certain criteria, including alignment with CTE model curriculum standards. (EC § 51760.3)

6) Authorizes the governing board of a high school district, an ROCP established by joint powers agreement, or a county superintendent of schools operating an ROCP to establish cooperative CTE programs or community classrooms as part of a CTE course. (EC § 52372)

7) Requires CDE to adopt rules and regulations for cooperative CTE programs and community classrooms offered through ROCPs operated by joint powers agreements or county offices. (EC § 52372)

8) Requires school districts that choose to expend supplemental CTE grant funds or accept other funds for CTE purposes to provide a series of programs offering sequences of courses that lead to specific competencies, and to develop articulation plans with community colleges to extend course sequences through grades 13 and 14. (EC § 52376)

9) Establishes the DAS within the Department of Industrial Relations to oversee apprenticeship programs, and requires the Chief of the Division to perform various functions to promote the welfare of apprentices. (Labor Code § 3070 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a pupil concurrently enrolled in specified community college courses to participate in work-based learning activities, subject to specified requirements.

2) Authorizes a student body organization to operate a student-led enterprise program, subject to specified requirements.

3) Expands and revises provisions governing work-based learning and WEE by:

a) Extending specified authorities currently provided to school districts maintaining high schools to county offices of education, charter schools, and state special schools;

b) Defining "work-based learning" and "work experience education" for these purposes;

c) Authorizing work-based learning activities to be delivered by state special schools, in addition to existing authorized entities;

d) Authorizing work-based learning activities to include on-the-job training in specified youth apprenticeship programs, internships, and mentorships; and

e) Authorizing work-based learning activities to be offered through WEE courses, community classrooms, cooperative CTE programs, early college credit courses, and other specified settings.

4) Expands provisions governing credit for WEE by:

a) Extending requirements currently applicable to school districts to county offices of education, charter schools, and state special schools; and

b) Requiring pupils beginning in grade 10 to be eligible to receive credit for completing a WEE program, rather than limiting that requirement to pupils in grade 11 or higher.

5) Authorizes cooperative CTE programs and community classrooms operated by high school districts, joint powers regional occupational centers or programs (ROC/Ps), or county-operated ROC/Ps to include work-based learning activities, as specified.

6) Authorizes funding for the state agricultural CTE program to support agricultural CTE programs that provide work-based learning activities, as specified.

7) Authorizes Golden State Pathways Program grants to be awarded to pathway programs that provide work-based learning activities, as specified.

8) Authorizes California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program funds to be awarded to pathway programs and work-based learning activities, as specified.

9) Authorizes funding for California Partnership Academies to support academies that provide work-based learning activities, as specified.

10) Authorizes transition and employment preparation services provided through Project Workability to include work-based learning activities, as specified.

11) Authorizes a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership agreement between a community college district and a school district, county office of education, or charter school to include work-based learning activities, as specified.

12) Authorizes community college internship training programs and apprenticeship partnerships established in collaboration with DAS to include work-based learning activities, as specified.

13) Authorizes Strong Workforce Program funds to support CTE programs that provide work-based learning activities, as specified.

14) Revises requirements for approval of preapprenticeship programs by authorizing a program seeking approval from DAS to demonstrate that its preapprenticeship training activities are conducted with approval from a local building and construction trades council to use the multicraft core curriculum, as an alternative to providing documentation that the activities are conducted in partnership with a DAS-approved apprenticeship program.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "California's education and workforce frameworks are leaving many students behind, especially low-income, Black, Latino and English Learner youth who enroll in college at lower rates and face barriers to completing a four-year degree. While 62% of high school graduates enroll in college within a year, only 34% of Californians hold at least a bachelor's degree. At the same time, 30% of future jobs will require training beyond high school, but less than a four-year degree. Our career education system is not meeting the needs of students and workforce demands. California voters recognize this gap, as highlighted in a recent survey where three-quarters of voters believe it is very or extremely important for K-12 schools to provide career-connected learning and develop partnerships with colleges and employers."

2) *The current state of CTE and work-based learning in California.* California has significantly expanded support for CTE and work-based learning over the last decade, both through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and through nearly $500 million in ongoing state categorical programs. The two largest are the CTE Incentive Grant (CTEIG) and the K–12 Strong Workforce Program,

which together provide $450 million annually to support CTE programs. These programs are layered on top of LCFF funding, which already includes an adjustment to the high school base rate intended to reflect the higher costs associated with CTE.

Despite this investment, participation and outcomes remain uneven. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, approximately 70% of graduating high school students take at least one CTE course, but only 18% complete a full CTE pathway. In 2023-24, 45% of high school graduates were deemed "prepared" on the College and Career Indicator (CCI), with substantially lower rates among students with disabilities, foster youth, homeless students, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. The state's CTE and work-based learning landscape is also spread across numerous programs with different funding streams, eligibility requirements, and administering entities. This bill addresses one piece of that fragmentation by establishing common terminology for work-based learning and expressly incorporating these activities into a number of existing education and workforce programs.

3) *Implementing pieces of the state's evolving vision for career education.* In recent years, two major statewide efforts have examined how California could better connect education and workforce systems. The Governor's Master Plan on Career Education calls for expanding work-based learning and earn-and-learn opportunities, improving coordination across education and workforce programs, and making career pathways easier for students to navigate. Separately, the California Youth Apprenticeship Committee (CYAC), established by the Legislature in 2022, developed recommendations for expanding youth apprenticeship, including a "Career Apprenticeship Bridge" model intended to allow young people to begin career preparation in high school and continue into postsecondary education and employment.

   The bill that passed the Senate included several state-level mechanisms intended to advance these efforts, including regular updates to CTE standards, an interagency workgroup on youth apprenticeship, and statewide work-based learning data collection. Those provisions were removed in the Assembly. The bill instead takes a more program-specific approach by establishing common work-based learning terminology and expressly authorizing work-based learning activities within existing programs such as CTEIG, K-12 Strong Workforce, Golden State Pathways, Partnership Academies, Project Workability, CCAP, and agricultural CTE. The bill therefore implements a narrower piece of the state's broader career education agenda, largely by

making work-based learning easier to incorporate within programs that already exist.

4) *Building work-based learning into existing programs rather than creating another one.* California's career education system has developed through numerous programs created at different times and for different purposes. As noted above, these include CTEIG and K-12 Strong Workforce, as well as more targeted programs such as Partnership Academies, Project Workability, agricultural CTE, Golden State Pathways, and CCAP. Work-based learning may already occur within some of these programs, but the statutory treatment of these activities is not uniform.

   Rather than establishing a new statewide work-based learning program, this bill amends many of these existing programs to expressly authorize work-based learning activities within them. This approach may provide greater clarity and flexibility for schools seeking to combine classroom instruction with workplace experiences without creating another categorical program or funding stream. At the same time, because these programs retain their separate purposes, eligibility requirements, and funding structures, the bill does not resolve the broader fragmentation of California's CTE system.

5) *Work-based learning extends beyond traditional CTE programs.* One notable feature of the Assembly amendments is that the bill does not limit work-based learning to traditional CTE programs. It authorizes concurrently enrolled high school pupils to participate in work-based learning through community college coursework, allows CCAP partnerships to include work-based learning, authorizes student body organizations to operate student-led enterprise programs, and expressly incorporates work-based learning into Project Workability for students with disabilities. These provisions reflect a broader conception of career-connected learning in which workplace exposure and experience can complement CTE pathways, college coursework, transition services, and other educational programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) One-time costs of $450,000 and $400,000 ongoing annually (CA Apprenticeship Council Training Fund) for DAS to expand establish and oversee the youth apprenticeship program.

2) Minor Proposition 98 General Fund costs to K-12 LEAs and California Community Colleges (CCCs), collectively statewide, to participate in the expanded youth apprenticeship and CTE framework. The bill authorizes the use of various existing CTE funding pathways to support its implementation, such as Golden State Pathways, CTE Incentive Grant, Agriculture CTE funding, and Partnership Academies.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Workforce Association (co-source)
NextGen California (co-source)
Alameda County Office of Education
Alameda County Workforce Development Board
Apprenticeships for America
CareerWise
County of Humboldt
County of Kern
CWUSA
DIAG USA Foundation
Early Care & Education Pathways to Success
Food Smart Strategies
Foothill Workforce Development Board
Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board
Golden Sierra Job Training Agency
Goodwill Southern California
Harbor Freight Tools
Humboldt County Workforce Development Board
Imperial County Workforce Development Board
Kern County Employer's Training Resource
Kern/Inyo/Mono Workforce Development
Launch Apprenticeship Network
Long Beach Workforce Innovation Network
Merced Workforce Development Board
Monterey County Workforce Development Board
Mother Lode Job Training
Mother Lode Workforce Development Board
North Central Counties Consortium
Oakland Workforce Development Board
Para Los Ninos
Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship
Pleasanton Unified School District

Propel America
Richmond Workforce Development Board
Riverside County Workforce Development Board
Rx RS Foundation
Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board
Society for Human Resource Management
South Bay Workforce Investment Board
Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board
The Anaheim Workforce Development Board
Unite-LA
Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County
Worknet Merced County

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received
ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/24/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: McKinnor

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 18:15:39

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 849
Author: Weber Pierson (D), et al.
Amended: 6/24/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 1/12/26
AYES: Ashby, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar, Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 1/22/26
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 1/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Physicians and surgeons: sexual misconduct and offenses: revocation of certificate

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill clarifies the conditions under which the surrender of a physician and surgeon's license in response to allegations of sexual abuse, misconduct, or specified relations with a patient or sexual exploitation results in the permanent loss of the license.

Assembly Amendments make various conforming changes, address constitutionality issues raised by Assembly policy committee, and add a coauthor.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes various practice acts in the Business and Professions Code (BPC) governed by various boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) which provide for the licensing and regulation of health care professionals and establishes a number of reporting requirements outlined in the BPC designed to inform health professional licensing boards about possible matters for investigation. (BPC §§ 500 *et seq.* and §§ 800 *et seq.*)

2) Specifies that cases involving certain allegations by licensees of the Medical Board of California (MBC) and the Podiatric Medical Board must be handled on a priority basis, including, but not limited to sexual misconduct with one or more patients during a course of treatment or an examination. (BPC § 2220.05)

3) Authorizes denial of an application for licensure as a physician and surgeon from any applicant who was subject to formal discipline for sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient or sexual exploitation. Allows for the automatic revocation of a physician and surgeon license if the application would have been denied for any of these causes. Requires automatic revocation of the license of any physician and surgeon who has been convicted in another state of a crime that would have required sex offender registration in California. Prohibits reinstatement of the license of a physician and surgeon if it was surrendered or revoked for committing an act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, or following conviction of a crime requiring registration as a sex offender wherein the person engaged in the offense with a patient or client, with the exception of registration required following conviction of a misdemeanor for indecent exposure. (BPC §§§ 480, 2232, 2307)

This bill prohibits a physician and surgeon license from being reinstated in cases where the license was surrendered while an accusation was pending against the licensee that alleges licensee committed an act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient pursuant or sexual exploitation.

Background

The physician and surgeon enforcement process begins with a complaint. Complaints are received from various sources, including the public, generated

internally by MBC or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC), or based on information MBC and OMBC receive from various entities through mandatory reports to the boards.

MBC licensee complaints are received by the Central Complaint Unit, which starts the process of determining next steps for a complaint. Complaint priorities are outlined in BPC Section 2220.05 in order to ensure that physicians representing the greatest threat of harm are identified and disciplined expeditiously. MBC must ensure that it is following this section of law when investigating complaints, including complaints alleging certain behavior, including sexual misconduct with one or more patients during a course of treatment or an examination, as being the highest priority.

For complaints about physicians and surgeons that are subsequently investigated and meet the necessary legal prerequisites, a Deputy Attorney General (DAG) in the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) drafts formal charges, known as an "Accusation". A hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is subsequently scheduled, at which point settlement negotiations take place between the DAG, the physician and their attorney and MBC or OMBC staff. Often times these result in a stipulated settlement, similar to a plea bargain in criminal court, where a licensee admits to having violated charges set forth in the accusation, or admits that the MBC or OMBC could establish a factual and legal basis for the charges in the Accusation at hearing, and accepts penalties for those violations. If a licensee contests charges, the case is heard before an ALJ who subsequently drafts a proposed decision. This decision is reviewed by a panel of MBC members or the OMBC Board who either adopt the decision as proposed, adopt the decision with a reduced penalty or adopt the decision with an increased penalty. If probation is ordered, a copy of the final decision is referred to MBC's Probation Unit or OMBC's probation monitor for assignment to an inspector who monitors the licensees for compliance with the terms of probation.

Certain acts and circumstances have been deemed so harmful or such a high risk of harm to patients that the MBC and OMBC are required to automatically suspend or revoke the licenses of any person who commits them. For example, the boards must automatically suspend a license after a conviction of specified felonies, including sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient. Once the conviction is final, the boards are required to automatically revoke the license. The MBC and OMBC must also automatically revoke the license of any licensee that has been required to register as a sex offender, regardless of whether the related conviction has been appealed, except when the registration resulted from a

misdemeanor for indecent exposure. Physicians subjected to automatic revocation may request a hearing within 30 days of the revocation. If the relevant conviction is overturned on appeal, the revocation ordered automatically ceases.
Except in specified cases, a former physician whose license was revoked, or who surrendered their license while under investigation or while charges were pending, is authorized to petition the MBC and OMBC for reinstatement. Petitions for reinstatement of a license surrendered or revoked for unprofessional conduct may not be filed for at least three years following the date the license was revoked or surrendered, though the MBC and OMBC may, for good cause shown, allow a petition to be submitted after only two years. Petitions include a statement of facts as required by the MBC and must be accompanied by at least two verified recommendations from licensed physicians who have personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary penalty was imposed.

Petitions for reinstatement may be heard by a panel of the MBC or OMBC or may be assigned to an administrative law judge. The panel or the administrative law judge may consider all the petitioner's activities since the disciplinary action was taken, the offense for which the petitioner was disciplined, the petitioner's activities during the time the certificate was in good standing, and the petitioner's rehabilitative efforts, general reputation for truth, and professional ability. Once the hearing is completed, the petition for reinstatement is either denied or granted, and may be granted with the imposition of certain terms and conditions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the bill will not result in costs to MBC or OMBC.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Medical Association
National Women's Defense League

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Medical Association, "…when a physician has been found to have committed egregious sexual misconduct against patients, the state has a compelling interest in ensuring that patients are protected from future harm. This measure recognizes that certain violations of professional trust are so serious that permanent removal from medical

practice is warranted. Importantly, this bill supplements the narrowly focused law that applied to the most serious forms of physician sexual misconduct and applies only to individuals whose licenses were revoked on those grounds. This measured approach balances due process considerations with the paramount need to protect patients from repeat offenders."

National Women's Defense League writes that "This bill sends a clear message to survivors: their safety matters, their experiences are taken seriously, and the state will not permit known offenders to cycle back into positions where harm can recur. It also affirms to the public that California's medical licensing system exists to protect patients—not to rehabilitate those who have already violated fundamental ethical obligations."

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /
8/25/26 18:35:43

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 873
Author: Reyes (D) and Umberg (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 29-7, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello, Strickland

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Courthouses: privilege from civil arrest

SOURCE: California Public Defenders Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Western Center on Law and Poverty

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a person traveling to or from, or while present at, a courthouse for any lawful activity from being subject to civil arrest, as specified; specifies that a civil arrest in violation of this prohibition or the common law

privilege against civil arrest constitutes the tort of false imprisonment or false arrest if the arresting person or persons knew or reasonably should have known that the person arrested was going to, remaining at, or returning from court for any lawful activity; makes a person who violates these provisions or assists in their violation liable for actual damages and statutory damages of $10,000; requires Judicial Council to annually prepare and publish on its website a report regarding civil arrests at courthouses pursuant to Rule 10.440 of the California Rules of Court, as specified; and requires court security personnel to take specified actions when they are aware that a representative of a law enforcement agency has entered a courthouse.

Assembly Amendments remove the provision that provides that the Attorney General may bring a civil action to obtain appropriate equitable and declaratory relief for a violation, amend and add various definitions; require court security personnel to take specified actions when they are aware that a representative of a law enforcement agency has entered a courthouse; specify that a civil arrest in violation of its provisions or the common law privilege protecting persons from civil arrest constitutes the tort of false imprisonment or false arrest if the arresting person knew or reasonably should have known that the person was arrested going to, remaining at, or returning from court for any lawful activity; and provides that each person who violates or assists in violating its provisions is liable for actual damages and statutory damages of $10,000.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes a common law privilege against civil arrest, holding that "Courts of justice ought everywhere to be open, accessible, free from interruption, and to cast a perfect protection around every man who necessarily approaches them. [Individuals] should be permitted to approach them, not only without subjecting himself to evil, but even free from the fear of molestation or hindrance." (*Stewart v. Ramsey* (1916) 242 U.S. 128, 129.)

2) Makes the following acts, in respect to a court of justice, or proceedings therein, contempt of the authority of the court:
   a) unlawfully detaining a witness or party to an action while going to, remaining at, or returning from the court where the action is on the calendar for trial; and
   b) any other unlawful interference with the process or proceedings of a court. (Code of Civil Procedure (Code Civ. Proc.) § 1209.)

3) Provides that California Code of Civil Procedure section 1209 is to be liberally construed to affect its objectives and promote justice. (*Burns v. Superior Court of San Francisco* (1903) 140 Cal. 1, 9.)

4) Gives judicial officers the power to:
   a) preserve and enforce order in their immediate presence, and in proceedings before them, when they are engaged in the performance of their official duties; and
   b) compel obedience to their lawful orders as provided in the Code of Civil Procedure. (Code Civ. Proc. § 177.)

5) Holds that a court has inherent power to exercise reasonable control over all proceedings connected with the litigation before it in order to ensure the orderly administration of justice and maintain the dignity and authority of the court, and to summarily punish for acts committed in the immediate view and presence of the court when they impede, embarrass, or obstruct it in the discharge of its duties. (*Mowrer v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County* (1969) 3 Cal.App.3d 223, 230.)

6) Provides that a person shall not be subject to civil arrest in a courthouse while attending a court proceeding or having legal business in the courthouse. Specifies that this provision does not narrow, or in any way lessen, any existing common law privilege, and that this provision does not apply to arrests made pursuant to a valid judicial warrant. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 43.54.)

This bill:

1) Makes various findings and declarations regarding importance of access to the courts and protecting persons attending court from civil arrest.

2) Repeals the provisions described in 6), above.

3) Provides that a person shall not be subject to civil arrest while present at or traveling to or from a courthouse for any lawful activity. Specifies that it shall be presumed that a person traveling to or from, or present at, a courthouse is engaging in lawful activity.

4) Specifies that its provisions described in 3) do not narrow or in any way lessen any existing common law privilege.

5) Specifies that its provisions described in 3) do not apply to arrests made pursuant to a valid judicial warrant.

6) Permits a court to issue appropriate judicial orders to protect the privilege from civil arrest under the above provisions or under common law, in addition to the powers available under specified code.

7) Specifies that, except as specified, a civil arrest in violation of these provisions or the common law privilege against civil arrest constitutes the tort of false imprisonment or false arrest if the arresting person or persons knew or reasonably should have known that the person arrested was going to, remaining at, or returning from court for any lawful activity.

8) Specifies that each person who violates these provisions, or assists in a violation, is liable for civil damages for false imprisonment or false arrest, including actual damages and statutory damages of $10,000. Permits a successful party to recover court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

9) Defines, for the purposes of the above-described provisions, the following:
   a) "arrest" to mean the taking of an individual into custody;
   b) "civil arrest" to mean the arrest of, or a communicated intent to arrest, an individual for an alleged violation of civil law;
   c) "court proceeding" to mean any matter, hearing, or other judicial business conducted by, or under the supervision of, a California superior court, Court of Appeal, or the Supreme Court, including but not limited to, trials, hearings, arraignments, case management conferences, and clerks' office transactions;
   d) "courthouse" to mean court facilities as defined in specified existing law; any sidewalk, parkway, or street surrounding the court facilities and its premises; or any public way within one thousand feet of the court facilities, including a sideway, parkway, or street; and
   e) "court security personnel" to mean peace officers and security guards, as described in specified law, who are assigned to perform court security functions under any employment, contractual, or memorandum of understanding agreement;
   f) "lawful activity" to mean any activity lawfully permitted at a courthouse, including but not limited to: observation of, attendance at, or involvement in court proceedings; any activities related to one's employment at a courthouse; accompanying, supporting, or assisting a person who is going to,

remaining at, or returning from a courthouse, as specified; the exercise of any constitutional rights at a courthouse; or otherwise being lawfully present at a courthouse.

10) Requires, when court security personnel are aware that any representative of a law enforcement agency, while acting in an official capacity, has entered a courthouse, that the court security personnel:
    a) Request that the law enforcement representative or representatives identify themselves and state their specific law enforcement purpose and intended enforcement action to be taken; and
    b) Request that the law enforcement representative or representatives provide a copy of a valid judicial warrant concerning the intended enforcement action to be taken.

11) Requires, when court security personnel is aware that there is an attorney representing a person named in the judicial warrant in any capacity, that court security personal request the law enforcement representative afford that attorney the right to review the warrant.

12) Specifies that an action or proceeding for the tort of false imprisonment or false arrest shall not be commenced against a court, a judicial officer, or any trial court employee, as defined, acting lawfully pursuant to their duty to maintain safety and order in the courts.

13) For the purposes of 10) through 12), above, defines "court security personnel" to have the same meaning as provided in Civil Code section 43.54.

14) Requires the Judicial Council to annually prepare a report compiling statistics, aggregated by county, of the information related to civil arrests reported to the Judicial Council pursuant to Rule 10.440 of the California Rules of Court.

15) Requires the Judicial Council to publicly post this report on its public internet website.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Costs of an unknown, but potentially significant amount to the Department of Justice (General Fund). The Civil Rights Enforcement Section anticipates workload costs to advise court administrators and the public on compliance and

to litigate violations, and the Police Practices Section anticipates workload costs to investigate allegations that state and local law enforcement entities have violated the bill's provisions. DOJ indicates the number of additional deputy attorneys general and support staff needed cannot be determined, in part because the range of circumstances the bill prohibits as civil arrests in or near a courthouse is not yet clear.

2) Minor and absorbable workload to the Judicial Council (Trial Court Trust Fund) to annually prepare and publish the required report on civil arrests, as the report aligns with existing reporting requirements under Rule 10.440 of the California Rules of Court. The courts expect workload impacts of an unknown, but likely minor, amount on court security personnel to inquire into the identity and purpose of law enforcement officers and to request judicial warrants as required by this bill. Individual courts may also incur absorbable costs to update memorandums of understanding with their local sheriff's office, which generally provides court security.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Public Defenders Association (co-source)
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (co-source)
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (co-source)
Western Center on Law & Poverty (co-source)
Access Reproductive Justice
California Center for Movement Legal Services
California Domestic Workers Coalition
California Faculty Association
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California Project Directors Association
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies–California
Communities for a Better Environment
Consumer Attorneys of California
Courage California
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates
Judicial Council of California
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Legal Aid Association of California
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Legal Aid of Sonoma County
Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Los Angeles County
Multi-faith Action Coalition
National Housing Law Project
Oakland Privacy
Pubic Interest Law Project
Public Advocates
Public Counsel
Tenants Together

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

California State Sheriffs' Association
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Public Defenders Association, which is a co-source of SB 873:

> Since the Trump administration rescinded its longstanding sensitive-locations policy in January 2025, ICE agents have conducted arrests at and near California state superior courthouses with alarming and growing frequency. This is not a peripheral concern: it is happening at state courthouses across California and it is happening with impunity. In some instances, agents have entered courthouse buildings, in blatant violation of existing state law. In many more, they wait on courthouse steps, in parking lots, and at building exits, exploiting a gap in current law that does not protect the grounds surrounding a courthouse.
>
> The consequences for the justice system are serious and immediate. Defendants, families, and witnesses are making decisions about whether to appear in court based on fear of what will happen when they get there. Cases are being delayed. Evidence is being lost. Defendants are accepting pleas they would otherwise contest simply to minimize their time in a courthouse. Witnesses are not appearing. A courthouse that a significant portion of the community fears to enter cannot administer justice.
>
> Existing California law prohibits civil arrests inside courthouse buildings, but provides no protection for the grounds, parking lots, and approaches where the majority of these arrests are now occurring. ICE has adapted its tactics precisely to exploit this gap. SB 873 closes it by establishing a 1,000-

foot enforcement-free zone around state courthouses and by requiring a valid judicial warrant, not an administrative ICE warrant, for any civil arrest within that zone.

The distinction between a judicial warrant and an administrative immigration warrant matters enormously. An administrative warrant is issued by an immigration officer, not a judge, and is *not* based on a judicial finding of probable cause. It is not the kind of legal process that should authorize the disruption of state judicial proceedings. SB 873 restores the appropriate standard: if federal agents wish to make a civil arrest in or around a California courthouse, they must obtain authorization from a court.

The bill also requires agents to identify themselves to court personnel. This is a modest but meaningful protection; it ensures that court administrators are aware of enforcement activity in their facilities, can implement their own policies, and can protect the integrity of proceedings already underway.

For CPDA's members, these arrests have a direct and corrosive effect on the ability to represent clients. Effective representation requires that clients and witnesses appear in court. When clients, their families, and witnesses are arrested on their way in or out of a hearing, public defenders lose the ability to consult with them, present their cases, and protect their rights. When clients are too afraid to appear, the consequences are equally grave. The right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment cannot be exercised by someone who does not feel safe entering the building.

Courthouses must be places where all Californians can participate in the justice system without fear. SB 873 is a targeted and necessary step toward restoring access to our own state court system for all Californians.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the California State Sheriff's Association, which opposes SB 873:

We are concerned that this bill places sheriffs' officials in a position of unavoidable conflict between state and federal law. Under SB 873, county sheriffs would be required to assess federal enforcement actions in the context of state law requirements, seek compliance with a state-imposed judicial warrant requirement, and likely delay or deny federal arrest activity occurring in or around courthouses. In practice, this will require sheriffs to choose between complying with federal law and disregarding state law, or

obeying state law in a manner that puts them in direct conflict with federal law.

Additionally, the bill significantly expands the prohibition of making a civil arrest in a courthouse. The definition of "courthouse" under SB 873 includes any sidewalk, parkway, or street surrounding the court facilities and its premises and any public way within 1,000 feet of the court facilities. A violation of this overly broad prohibition is subject to a private right of action for equitable and declaratory relief as well as actual damages and statutory damages of $10,000.

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/25/26 18:52:15

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 891
Author: Cervantes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 3/17/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Pérez, Reyes, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Justice Program

SOURCE: Yurok Tribe

DIGEST: This bill establishes The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Justice Program within the Department of Justice (DOJ) which facilitates collaboration between parties in cases of missing and murdered indigenous people.

Assembly Amendments delay the requirement for DOJ to publish specified aggregated data until July 1, 2030, and limit the annual report to publication between 2030 and 2033.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Defines "Indian country" as: all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and, including rights-of-way running through the reservation; all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the U.S. whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state, and all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same. (Title 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1151.)

2) Provides concurrent California and Tribal jurisdiction over criminal offenses committed by or against Indians in the areas of Indian country, as specified.

3) Provides that the Indian Country affected within California includes all Indian Country within the state. (18 U.S.C. § 1162.)

Existing law:

1) Provides that murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, or a fetus, with malice aforethought. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 187, subd. (a).)

2) Requires the Attorney General to establish and maintain the Violent Crime Information Center to assist in the identification and the apprehension of persons responsible for specific violent crimes and for the disappearance and exploitation of persons, particularly children and at-risk adults. (Pen. Code, § 14200, subd. (a).)

3) Requires all local police and sheriffs' departments to accept any report, by any party, including any telephonic report, of a missing person, including runaways, without delay and to give priority to the handling of these reports over the handling of reports relating to crimes involving property. (Pen. Code, § 14211, subd. (a).)

4) Requires the local police or sheriff's department, in cases of reports involving missing persons, including, but not limited to, runaways, to immediately take

the report and make an assessment of reasonable steps to be taken to locate the person by using the required report forms, checklists, and guidelines. (Pen. Code, § 14211, subd. (c).)

5) Establishes the "feather alert," a notification system designed to issue and coordinate alerts with respect to endangered indigenous people, specifically indigenous women or indigenous people, who are reported missing. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 8594.13, subd. (a).)

6) Provides that a law enforcement agency or Tribe of California may directly request the California Highway Patrol activate a Feather Alert. Specifies that a law enforcement agency may request that a Feather Alert be activated if that agency determines a Feather Alert would be an effective tool in the investigation of missing and murdered indigenous persons, including young women or girls. Requires the law enforcement agency to consider the following factors to make that determination:

   a) The missing person is an indigenous woman or an indigenous person.
   b) The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized available local and tribal resources.
   c) The law enforcement agency determines that the person is missing.
   d) The law enforcement agency or tribe believes that the person is in danger and is missing under circumstances that indicate that: the missing person's physical safety may be endangered; the missing person may be subject to trafficking; or the missing person suffers from a mental or physical disability, or a substance use disorder.
   e) There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person. (Gov. Code, § 8594.13, subds. (c), (e).)

7) Establishes the Rural Indian Crime Prevention Program within the Office of Emergency Services. Provides that the purpose of the program is to provide financial and technical assistance for local law enforcement. Requires the program to target the relationship between law enforcement and Native American communities to encourage and to strengthen cooperative efforts and to implement crime suppression and prevention programs. (Pen. Code, § 13847, subd. (a).)

This bill:

1) Establishes the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Justice Program (MMIPJP) within and under the discretion of the DOJ. Provides that the program has all the following responsibilities:

    a) Facilitate collaboration and act as a liaison between tribal victims' families, tribal governments, and federal, tribal, state, and out-of-state law enforcement agencies, where appropriate, regarding active and inactive cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons in California, including cases involving human trafficking.
    b) Provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies already engaged in investigating cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons in California, including cases of human trafficking.
    c) Publish data, beginning July 1, 2030, on the number of, and facts about, cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons in California, where appropriate.

2) Requires the DOJ to submit an annual report, beginning July 1, 2030 until January 1, 2033, to both houses of the Legislature containing all of the following:

    a) The cases the department acted as a liaison and provided technical assistance to law enforcement.
    b) The information published on the number of, and facts about, cases involving missing and murdered indigenous persons.
    c) An analysis of all appropriate data, and any recommendations to assist or improve upon necessary collaboration and coordination between local, state, and tribal governments in addressing missing and murdered indigenous persons in California.

Background

In 2018, the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) published a report after conducting a study "aimed at assessing the number and dynamics of cases of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls in cities across the United States." (UIHI, *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A snapshot of date from 71 urban cities in the United States*, p.2 available at <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-

Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf .) In its report, UIHI cited a National Crime Information Center statistic that there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls made in 2016 although the U.S. Department of Justice's federal missing persons database only had 116 cases. (*Ibid*.) That discrepancy as well as the lack of research on rates of violence among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in urban areas—where nearly three quarters of the Indigenous population lives—led UIHI to conduct its study. (*Ibid*.)

In describing its methodology to collect data on cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the UIHI stated:

> As demonstrated by the findings of this study, reasons for the lack of quality data include underreporting, racial misclassification, poor relationships between law enforcement and American Indian and Alaska Native communities, poor record-keeping protocols, institutional racism in the media, and a lack of substantive relationships between journalists and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. In an effort to collect as much case data as possible and to be able to compare the five data sources used, UIHI collected data from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to law enforcement agencies, state and national missing persons databases, searches of local and regional news media online archives, public social media posts, and direct contact with family and community members who volunteered information on missing or murdered loved ones. (*Id*. at p. 4.)

The report concluded:

> UIHI discovered a striking level of inconsistency between community, law enforcement, and media understandings of the magnitude of this violence. If this report demonstrates one powerful conclusion, it is that if we rely solely on law enforcement or media for an awareness or understanding of the issue, we will have a deeply inaccurate picture of the realities, minimizing the extent to which our urban American Indian and Alaska Native sisters experience this violence. This inaccurate picture limits our ability to address this issue at policy, programing, and advocacy levels. (*Id*. at p. 20.)

This bill seeks to address some of the issues outlined in the report. Specifically, this bill establishes the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Justice Program within DOJ, to facilitate and act as a liaison between parties in cases regarding missing and murdered indigenous people, as well as to collect data from various sources. This bill also requires the DOJ to publish an annual report of its findings beginning in 2030 and until 2033.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

Costs of up to $3 million annually (General Fund) to DOJ to establish and operate the MMIPJP. DOJ reports the department cannot absorb these costs within existing budgeted resources and that implementation is dependent upon an appropriation. DOJ's estimate spans five divisions and approximately 14 positions, including research and data staff in the California Justice Statistics Center to collect, analyze, and publish MMIP data; a crime analyst in the Missing and Unidentified Persons Section; two special agent supervisors in the Division of Law Enforcement to act as liaisons with tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, plus associated vehicle costs; a dedicated victim advocate in the Victim Services Unit; and analyst and clerical staff in the Office of Native American Affairs to coordinate the program, conduct outreach, and draft the annual report. In addition, DOJ will face one-time IT costs of about $578,000 to reprogram DOJ's missing persons database and the statewide crime reporting system so DOJ can capture and publish the tribal affiliation and foster care information the bill requires. DOJ's current estimate is somewhat higher than the department's estimate on the substantially similar SB 4 (Cervantes), of this legislative session, held on the suspense file in this committee, on which DOJ anticipated costs beginning at $1.4 million and rising to approximately $2.3 million ongoing for nine positions. The increase appears attributable to requiring additional positions, particularly in the California Justice Statistics Center, and the one-time IT modifications tied to the new publication requirements. DOJ reports that its Research Services Branch would absorb related homicide and missing persons statistical workload through June 30, 2029, using limited-term resources provided in connection with SB 108 (Budget Act of 2024), but anticipates needing permanent funding for two research positions beginning July 1, 2029, when that funding expires.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Yurok Tribe (source)
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California Tribal Business Alliance
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
So'oh-Shinálí Sister Project
Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition
Wilton Rancheria
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 11:18:43

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 894
Author: Allen (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Grove, Stern

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Pérez, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Wildfire resiliency: financial assistance

SOURCE: Megafire Action

DIGEST: This bill establishes the California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program (CAEATFA) and requires the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority to administer the program to provide financial assistance for projects and activities to reduce wildfire-related risks and losses, including home hardening and defensible space improvements.

Assembly Amendments establish that inspections and administrative fees shall be an eligible expense under the Loan Program; establish that ratepayer funds shall not be used to fund the Loan Program; and authorize the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide technical assistance and public leadership in support of the Loan Program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes CAEATFA. (Public Resources Code § 26011.8)

This bill:

1) Adds to the purposes of CAEATFA the advancement of increasing the adoption of wildfire resilience improvements that reduce wildfire-risk related risk and losses by promoting facilities, projects, improvements, and measures intended to reduce wildfire risk, enhance structure survivability, or improve community resilience to wildfire.
2) Establishes the California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program (Loan Program) to be developed and administered by CAEATFA, upon appropriation by the Legislature or the appropriation of any federal or private funds.
3) Establishes the goals of the Loan Program as:
    a) Reducing local and statewide wildfire losses through wildfire resilience improvements to residential, multifamily, mixed-use, nonprofit, or small business property.
    b) Improving insurability and resilience of communities vulnerable to wildfire risk.
    c) Increasing the defensible space around and hardening of residential, multifamily, mixed-use, nonprofit, or small business property to mitigate wildfire risk, thereby reducing the emission of greenhouse gases from wildfires and associated air pollution.
    d) Reduce the upfront and overall cost to eligible property owners of obtaining private financing for wildfire resilience improvements and expand access of eligible property owners to private financing tools for wildfire resilience improvements.
4) Establishes that the Loan Program may include, but not be limited to, establishment of a loan loss reserve, interest rate buy-downs, and other credit enhancements.
5) Establishes eligible wildfire resilience improvements.

6) Makes financial assistance under this Loan Program available to eligible properties statewide.
7) Requires the financing of the Loan Program does not include ratepayer funds.
8) Authorizes the Department to provide technical assistance and public leadership in support of the Loan Program.
9) Authorizes CAEATFA to enter into partnerships or referral arrangements to facilitate the referral of eligible applicants, aggregating demand, or facilitating bulk purchasing or contracting agreements.
10) Authorizes CAEATFA to consult with the SFM to establish procedures for verifications of improvements financed through the program for the purposes of program integrity, evaluation, and continuous improvement.
11) Authorizes CAEATFA to enter into agreements, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to design, develop, maintain, and operate a public-facing internet website for the Loan Program.
12) Establishes findings and declarations related to the purpose of this bill.

Background

California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program. The Loan Program proposed in this bill is modeled after the GoGreen financing platform administered by CAEATFA. This bill creates a state-backed loan loss reserve that leverages public dollars to unlock private capital, lower interest rates, and finance home hardening and defensible space improvements for more Californians to protect their residential homes and small businesses.

This bill authorizes the program to fund home hardening projects that improve a structure's ability to withstand and survive a wildfire.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis on an earlier version of the bill:

- CAETFA estimates ongoing costs of $3.9 million in the first year, gradually increasing to $5 million per year by the fifth year and likely continuing to grow thereafter (California Alternative Energy Authority Fund or other fund) to administer the Wildfire Resilience Loan Program, including to provide a loan loss reserve/credit enhancement funds. This cost estimate is based on CAEATFA's projection of 1,000 projects in the first year, which would increase

in each subsequent year and grow to more than 2,4000 projects by year five. Actual CAEATFA costs could be higher or lower and would depend on how many projects are ultimately undertaken.

- Unknown, potentially significant one-time costs for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to provide guidance, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Department of Insurance, to CAEATFA on wildfire resilience improvements eligible under the program. Unknown but likely minor costs for the Department of Insurance to consult with CalFire on the above guidance. CalOES anticipates its consulting costs would be minor and absorbable.
- Cost pressures of an unknown but likely significant amount, possibly in the tens of millions of dollars (various funds), to provide state funding for California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program projects and activities.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Megafire Action (sponsor)
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
California Credit Union League
California Fire Safe Council
California Forward
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Climate Resolve
Consumer Watchdog
Del Norte Fire Safe Council
Elevate California
Environmental Defense Fund
Fire Aside
Firegeneration Collaborative
Firewerx
Little Hoover Commission
Los Angeles; City of
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services INC
Net-zero California
Orange County Fire Authority
Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies
Pacific Forest Trust
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Rockrose Risk
Rural County Representatives of California
Safe Community Project
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District
Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Sierra Club
The Greenlining Institute
The Tahoe Fund

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Implementing wildfire hardening measures such as upgrading roofing and windows, replacing siding, and managing nearby vegetation can reduce a structure's fire risk by more than 35 percent. However, these home hardening and defensible space investments can be prohibitively expensive, costing tens-of-thousands of dollars for homeowners and affordable financing is not easily accessible."

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/26/26 15:25:12

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 913
Author: Becker (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Strickland, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-3, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Resource adequacy: aggregated distributed energy resources

SOURCE: Environment California
The Climate Center

DIGEST: This bill proposes policy changes to authorize and expand the use of aggregated distributed energy resources (DERs) to satisfy resource adequacy (RA) requirements.

Assembly Amendments move the date by one year, to June 30, 2028, by when the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) must enhance existing market-

integrated pathways for aggregated distributed energy resources and provide recommendations to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), as specified; provide the CPUC with discretion to address device-level telemetry, instead of prescribing related requirements; requires the CPUC to establish conditions where customer-sited DERs may receive credit for energy exported past the utility meter; and recasts the language concerning participation in Net-Energy Metering (NEM).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes and vests the CPUC with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)

2) Requires the CAISO, as a nonprofit, public benefit corporation, to conduct its operations consistent with applicable state and federal laws and consistent with the interests of the people of the state. (Public Utilities Code §345.5)

3) Requires the CAISO to ensure the efficient use and reliable operation of the transmission grid, as provided. (Public Utilities Code §345)

4) Requires the CPUC, in consultation with the CAISO, to establish RA requirements for all load-serving entities (LSEs) and requires the CPUC in establishing those requirements to ensure the reliability of electrical service in California. Requires the RA program to facilitate the development of new generating, non-generating, hybrid capacity and retention of existing generating, non-generating, and hybrid capacity that is economical and needed for reliability. Requires that the RA program achieve specified objectives, including that it establish new or maintain existing demand response products and tariffs, as specified. Defines LSE, for that purpose, as an electrical corporation, electric service provider (ESP), or community choice aggregator (CCA). (Public Utilities Code §380)

5) Defines “distributed resources” to mean distributed renewable generation resources, energy efficiency, energy storage, electric vehicles, and demand response technologies. (Public Utilities Code §769)

6) Creates the Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) Program and requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission (CEC)) to implement and administer the program to

incentivize dispatchable customer load reduction and backup generation operation as on-call emergency supply and load reduction for the state's electrical grid during extreme events. (Public Resources Code §25792)

This bill:

1) Makes several findings and declarations concerning the role of DERs to provide capacity value to satisfy RA requirements.

2) Requires the CPUC, in coordination with the CEC and the CAISO, on or before June 30, 2028, to enhance existing market-integrated pathways for aggregated DERs, as defined, to qualify as RA capacity.

3) Requires the CPUC to establish the conditions for the use of aggregated DERs while ensuring NEM customers and net billing tariff (NBT) customers do not receive duplicate compensation, as provided.

4) Requires the CPUC to allow electrical corporations, ESPs, and CCAs to include aggregated DERs in RA filings and CPUC-ordered procurement.

5) Requires the CPUC, on or before June 30, 2028, to develop recommendations for changes to the CAISO's proxy demand resource and the DER aggregation participation models to be consistent with the CPUC's requirements for aggregated DERs pursuant to these provisions, and to communicate the recommendations to the CAISO for consideration in a new or existing initiative.

Background

Resource adequacy (RA). Following the California energy crisis of 2000-01, the California Legislature enacted legislation to prevent future incidents of widespread blackouts and rolling brownouts due to lack of electric generating capacity. Among the reforms adopted in response to the crisis was the adoption of Public Utilities Code §380 as an effort to better ensure reliability of electric supply. The statute directs the CPUC, in consultation with the CAISO, to establish RA requirements for all LSEs, including electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs), ESPs, and now includes CCAs, which did not exist at the time of the crisis.

The current RA program consists of system, local, and flexible requirements for each month of a compliance year. There are two types of filings: Annual filings (filed on or around October 31st) and Monthly filings (filed 45 calendar days prior to the compliance month). For the monthly filings, LSEs must demonstrate they

have procured 100% of their monthly System and Flexible RA obligation. For the Annual filings, in October of each year, LSEs must demonstrate that they have procured 90% of their system RA obligations for the five summer months (May-September) of the following year, as well as 100% of their local requirements, and 90% of their flexible requirements for each month of the coming compliance year. The CPUC has adopted changes to RA program in recent years, including increasing the planning reserve margin from 15% to 17% by 2024 for all LSEs and in the case of electric IOUs upwards of 20-22% effective planning reserve margin. The CPUC has required a multi-year local capacity RA requirement and adopted local capacity requirements for the upcoming three years. The CAISO conducts a *Local Capacity Technical Analysis* to identify the minimum local resource capacity required in each local area to meet energy needs used a 1-in-10 weather year and N-1-1(emergency) contingency. The CPUC also assesses penalties on the LSEs who fail to satisfy their RA obligations, including limiting the expansion of CCAs if they are deficient in their RA requirements.

Slice-of-Day Framework. The CPUC is also amid a significant change to the RA program by implementing a slice-of-day framework that assesses the hourly use of resources. The CPUC has been developing the new structure for a few years and in 2025 implemented the first year of the slice-of-day framework. The CPUC adopted a 17% planning reserve margin for the slice-of-day framework, consistent with previous planning reserve margins, to procure enough RA to meet load obligations in each hour rather than monthly. Under the slice-of-day framework, LSEs receive a 24-hour obligation for each of the 12 months of the year. The new RA framework requires that resources, including energy storage resources, demonstrate their ability to provide capacity during specific, critical hours rather than just a daily peak.

RA Compensation. Resources used to meet an LSE's RA requirement are compensated for the ability to call on the resource when needed, known as a "must-offer obligation." A resource that commits to providing RA undertakes the "must-offer obligation" to bid or self-schedule its capacity into the CAISO wholesale market, ensuring capacity is available for system reliability. When generators contract with LSEs to provide RA, they must make their capacity available or face penalties. The actual dispatch of resources to meet load in real-time is performed on an economic basis, with the lowest cost resources committed first. As such, RA resources must be offered into the wholesale market, but they may not be dispatched to serve load if there are less expensive resource bids available (including non-RA resources). The RA program provides an additional source of revenue beyond just actual energy sales. To qualify to sell RA, a resource

type must first be assigned a qualifying capacity (QC) from the CPUC, which represents a resource's maximum capacity eligible to be counted towards meeting its RA. The resource must then register with the CAISO and be tested to determine if it is "deliverable" to load when the transmission system is stressed by high demand. Following the deliverability assessment, each resource is assigned a net qualifying capacity ("NQC") value, which defines the amount of RA that it can sell. For intermittent resources like wind and solar, the NQC value is typically well below the nameplate capacity of the facility. Demand response and energy storage resources are eligible to provide RA value, while energy efficiency is generally subtracted from the load forecast. In the case of behind-the-meter energy storage resources, they do not receive value for their exports to the grid.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author:

> Californians are struggling with rising electricity bills, and we need to use our grid more intelligently and cost-effectively. Instead of always building expensive new infrastructure to meet just a few peak hours of demand, we should be making better use of the resources we already have in our homes. Millions of Californians already have tools like smart thermostats, home batteries, and electric vehicles that can help support the grid. SB 913 ensures we can use those resources to lower costs, reduce pollution, and improve reliability.

Supporters frustrated by the value of DERs and aggregated resources within the RA market. The supporters of this bill express frustrations that behind-the-meter DERs and aggregated resources are not able to compete fairly within the RA market. They contend that a myriad of existing rules at the CPUC and CAISO diminish the value of these resources to participate more fully in the wholesale market compared to other energy resources. They believe this bill is necessary to level the playing field and ensure these resources can provide their full benefit to the electrical system and as such help reduce costs for all customers. They point to the success of the CEC's DSGS Program which has enrolled over 1000 megawatts of DERs to participate in the program. The DSGS Program provides incentives to reduce customer net load during extreme events with upfront capacity commitments and for per-unit reductions in net load. The DSGS Program has been funded through the State Budget, however, the opportunity for future funds is less certain. The supporters contend that the continued growth of battery energy storage systems and electric vehicles, for example, presents an opportunity to aggregate these loads and help reduce consumption during peak periods, thereby reducing the

strain on the electric grid. They view these resources as untapped potential, noting that of the 2.5 million electric vehicles in California today, only around 25,000 are on managed charging programs, and that smart thermostats and smart electric panels add to the ability to reduce consumption when wholesale market prices skyrocket.

Various efforts to re-examine the value of energy storage and DERs, including aggregations, for RA. As noted above, both the CPUC and CAISO have important roles in developing the RA program and the values of the various energy resources used in the program. As DERs volume has grown and types have expanded, including solar, energy storage, electric vehicles, and others load-modifying resources (including the aggregation of thermostats) there is growing demand by stakeholders to better optimize their participation in the wholesale market by modifying load and to receive capacity value for their exported energy. The CAISO tariffs allow aggregations of DERs to participate in its markets. However, the issue of the full capacity value for behind-the-meter DERs and aggregation has continued to be pressed by stakeholders at the CPUC and CAISO for many years.

The CPUC has an open proceeding (R. 25-09-004, *Scoping Memo dated February 12, 2026*) which considers additional enhancements to demand response programs, including revisiting valuation methodologies, CAISO market integration topics, and RA valuation. Additionally, the CAISO also has a current working group, Demand and Distributed Energy Market Integration Working Group, that is actively discussing enhancements to, or development of, participation models and market rules facilitating the representation of demand and distributed energy, either independently or managed aggregation, in the CAISO wholesale markets. CAISO demand and distributed energy market integration initiative was launched in February 2025 and issued a Discussion Paper on November 26, 2025, which is now helping to shape priorities for these issues, including the value of behind-the-meter energy storage exports, value of aggregated DERs, and other related issues raised in this bill.

Bill seeks CPUC decisions on RA capacity outcomes. This bill intends to encourage the CPUC and CAISO to adopt enhancements to existing rules in order to achieve the supporters' goals to attain greater capacity value for aggregated DERs within the RA program. This bill requires the CPUC to evaluate the value for energy exports from behind-the-meter energy, aggregation of these resources, multiple devices and multiple enrollments behind the same customer meter, using device telemetry, and customer enrollments that require utility login or other barriers. This bill provides the CPUC the opportunity to address these

considerations within the CPUC proceedings and CAISO initiatives, particularly as they may need to address how such efforts may affect other program participation and compensation. The supporters of this bill support legislative direction and requirements to ensure the CPUC fully considers the use of DERs within RA program.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1138 (Padilla, 2026) would have required the CPUC to allow LSEs to satisfy 25% of their RA requirements by trading energy capacity with other LSEs. The bill was held by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 740 (Harabedian, 2025) would have required the CEC, in the next update to the biennial integrated energy policy report after January 1, 2027, and subject to available funding, to adopt a virtual power plant deployment plan. The bill was vetoed.

AB 44 (Schultz, 2025) would have required the CEC, on or before December 1, 2026, and in consultation with LSEs and resource aggregators, to define and publicize methodologies for load modification protocols by which a LSE may reduce or modify its electrical demand forecast upon aggregated system operation of behind-the-meter load modifying technologies and programmatic measures deemed to reliably reduce or modify the LSE's electrical demand. The bill was vetoed.

SB 541 (Becker, 2025) would have required the CEC, in consultation with specified entities, to analyze the cost-effectiveness of specific load flexibility programs and other types of load-shifting interventions and identify both the approximate amount of load shifting and the cost-effectiveness of each type of load-shifting intervention in the next update to the biennial integrated energy policy report after January 1, 2027, as provided. The bill was vetoed.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

This bill will entail considerable costs for the CPUC, likely in the millions of dollars, to establish conditions under which a DER located on the customer side of the electric utility meter may export electricity past the utility meter, revise the RA program in keeping with bill and complete other activities.

For its part, the CPUC asserts it will need $7.5 million (Public Utilities Commission Utilities Reimbursement Account), though the CPUC did not attribute these costs to specific activities or personnel, contracting or equipment needs.

Costs to the CEC to coordinate with the CPUC should be minor and absorbable.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Environment California (co-source)
The Climate Center (co-source)
350 Bay Area Action
350 Humboldt
Active San Gabriel Valley
Advanced Energy United
Ava Community Energy
California Alliance for Community Energy
California Efficiency + Demand Management Council
California Public Interest Research Group
California Solar & Storage Association
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Community Energy
Center for Environmental Health
Ceres
City of Mountain View
City of San Diego
Clean Coalition
CleanEarth4Kids.org
Climate Action California
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Health Now Action Fund
Community Environmental Council
County of San Diego
Deploy Action
Derapi
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Information Center
Environmental Working Group
ev.energy
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Generac Power Systems

Immaculate Heart Community Environmental Commission
Leap
Local Clean Energy Alliance
Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
NextGen California
Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network
Qcells
Reclaim Our Power: Utility Justice Campaign
Renew Homes
San José Clean Energy
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Sierra Club California
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Solar Energy Industries Association
Solar United Neighbors Action
Tesla, Inc.
The Energy Coalition
Uniting the Central Coast for Action
U.S. Green Building Council California
Voltus, Inc.
Vote Solar

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Coalition of California Utility Employees
Independent Energy Producers Association
Two Individuals

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Solar and Storage Association:

> DERs are currently eligible to provide Resource Adequacy, but several rules prohibit them from providing their full capacity. In particular, DERs currently do not receive any credit for energy that is exported past the customer's utility meter onto the distribution system, significantly capping the potential for these resources to provide peak capacity when California's grid needs it the most. Consequently, this rule and several others have limited DERs' ability to provide Resource Adequacy as an additional resource that is available to utilities. …This bill would put DERs on equal footing with large resources and allow them to compete and be called upon when they are a cost-effective resource.

This will help put downward pressure on rates as it lowers the cost that load-serving entities pay for Resource Adequacy, and it will be a source of clean peak capacity.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the Coalition of California Utility Employees:

> …there is no guarantee that that the DERs would actually provide resource adequacy. Allowing DERs to count for full resource adequacy credit is problematic if the DERs are not operated or controlled by the IOUs. There is no way to control third-party operation of them and imposing a penalty if the capacity is not delivered is not enough. History shows that penalties are just a part of doing business. This bill would count a DER as capacity even though it might not be available to a load serving entity to benefit the grid because it's being used to benefit the private interest of the customer.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-3, 8/25/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Macedo
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, McKinnor, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Tangipa

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/25/26 18:55:45

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 916
Author: Ashby (D)
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Civil actions: housing development projects

SOURCE: Student Homes Coalition

DIGEST: This bill provides a mechanism for a defendant in a civil action, including under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), challenging a project that is a student housing project, as defined, to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project.

Assembly Amendments make clarifying changes and chaptering out amendments.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed discretionary project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA (CEQA includes various statutory exemptions, as well as categorical exemptions in the CEQA Guidelines). (Public Resources (Pub. Res.) Code § 21100 et seq.)

2) Sets requirements relating to the preparation, review, comment, approval and certification of environmental documents, as well as procedures relating to an action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul various actions of a public agency on the grounds of noncompliance with CEQA. (Pub. Res. Code § 21165 et seq.)

3) Authorizes judicial review of CEQA actions taken by public agencies, following the agency's decision to carry out or approve the project, and specifies certain time periods in which an action must be instituted depending on the type of claim alleged. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.)

4) Requires the superior court and court of appeal to provide lawsuits related CEQA preference over all other civil actions therein, in the matter of setting the same for hearing or trial, and in hearing the same, to the end that the action or proceeding is to be quickly heard and determined. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.1(a).)

5) Provides that in all civil actions, including those brought by any plaintiff to challenge a housing development project which is a development project which meets or exceeds the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing, a defendant may apply to the court by noticed motion for an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and any damages that may be incurred by the defendant by the conclusion of the action or proceeding as the result of a delay in carrying out the development project if the bringing of the action has the effect of preventing or delaying the project from being carried out. (Code of Civil Procedure § 529.9(a).)

6) Provides that a defendant seeking a security in accordance with 5), above, must make a motion for that security on the grounds that the action is without merit

and was brought in bad faith, vexatiously, for the purpose of delay, or to thwart the low- or moderate-income nature of the housing development project. (*Ibid*.)

7) Authorizes the plaintiff, in response to a motion for an undertaking made under 5), above, to seek to limit the amount of the undertaking by presenting admissible evidence that filing an undertaking will cause it, and in cases where the plaintiff is an unincorporated association, its members, to suffer undue economic hardship. (*Id*. at subd. (b).)

8) Requires the court, if the court determines after a hearing that the grounds for the motion have been established, to order the plaintiff to file the undertaking in an amount specified in the court's order, taking into consideration any admitted evidence of plaintiff's economic hardship and avoiding to cause the plaintiff to suffer undue economic hardship, as security for costs and damages of the defendant.
   a) The liability of the plaintiff for the costs and damages of the defendant is not to exceed $500,000.
   b) If the court concludes, based on all of the admissible evidence presented, that a bond in any amount would cause the plaintiff undue economic hardship, the court is authorized in its discretion to decline to impose a bond.
   c) If at any time after the plaintiff has filed an undertaking the housing development plan is changed by the developer in bad faith so that it fails to meet or exceed the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing, the developer is liable to the plaintiff for the cost of obtaining the undertaking. (*Ibid*.)

9) Authorizes a defendant, in any litigation pending in any court of this state and at any time until final judgment is entered, to move the court upon a notice and a hearing for an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish security.
   a) Provides that the motion for an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish security must be based upon the ground, and supported by a showing, that the plaintiff is a vexatious litigant and that there is not a reasonable probability that they will prevail in the litigation against the moving defendant. (Code of Civ. Proc. § 391.1.)

This bill:

1) Expands existing Code of Civil Procedure Section 529.9 to also apply to actions challenging a student housing project.

2) Defines "student housing project" as one or more housing facilities to be occupied by students of one or more campuses and owned by a public university, including dining, academic, and student support service spaces, and other necessary and usual attendant and related facilities and equipment.

3) Makes chaptering out amendments.

Comments

Enacted in 1970, CEQA requires state and local agencies to follow a set protocol to disclose and evaluate the significant environmental impacts of proposed projects and to adopt feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. CEQA itself applies to projects undertaken or requiring approval by public agencies, and, if more than one agency is involved, CEQA requires one of the agencies to be designated as the "lead agency." The environmental review process required by CEQA consists of: (1) determining if the activity is a project; (2) determining if the project is exempt from CEQA; and (3) performing an initial study to identify the environmental impacts and, depending on the findings, prepare either a Negative Declaration (for projects with no significant impacts), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (for projects with significant impacts but that are revised in some form to avoid or mitigate those impacts), or an EIR (for projects with significant impacts).

An EIR must accurately describe the proposed project, identify and analyze each significant environmental impact expected to result from the proposed project, identify mitigation measures to reduce those impacts to the extent feasible, and evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. Before approving any project that has received environmental review, an agency must make certain findings pertaining to the project's environmental impact and any associated mitigation measures. If mitigation measures are required or incorporated into a project, the public agency must adopt a reporting or monitoring program to ensure compliance with those measures. To enforce the requirements of CEQA, a civil action may be brought under several code sections to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the acts or decisions of a public agency for noncompliance with the act.

Unlike other environmental laws specific to air resources, water resources, or the control of toxic substances, there is no statewide bureaucracy charged with enforcement of CEQA. Rather, it is enforced through citizen participation and litigation if necessary. Arguably, this makes the implementation of CEQA more efficient and expeditious than if a state agency were created to administer the law. Thus, CEQA litigation could more appropriately be characterized as mere enforcement.

"CEQA operates, not by dictating proenvironmental outcomes, but rather by mandating that 'decision makers and the public' study the likely environmental effects of contemplated government actions and thus make fully informed decisions regarding those actions. … In other words, CEQA does not care what decision is made as long as it is an informed one." (Citizens Coalition Los Angeles v. City of Los Angeles (2018) 26 Cal. App. 5th 561, 577.)

SB 393 (Glazer, Chapter 285, Statutes of 2024) amended an existing provision of law (Code of Civil Procedure § 529.2) that provided a mechanism for a defendant in a civil action challenging a housing project which is a development project that meets or exceeds the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project. Prior to the enactment of SB 393, the defendant had the burden of making a showing that the posting of the undertaking would not place an undue hardship on the plaintiff. SB 393 shifted the burden to the plaintiff to demonstrate that posting a bond would place an undue economic hardship on the plaintiff, arguing that the plaintiff is the one who has the information to make such a showing and therefore it was more appropriate to place that burden on the plaintiff.

This bill seeks to enact a similar mechanism for a defendant in a civil action, including an action under CEQA, challenging a project that is a student housing project. This bill allows such a defendant to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project. "Student housing project" is defined as one or more housing facilities to be occupied by students of one or more campuses and owned by a public university, including dining, academic, and student support service spaces, and other necessary and usual attendant and related facilities and equipment.

In 2023, the Office of the President of the University of California (UC) reported that since 2018, seven housing projects had been challenged by CEQA litigation and that approximately 4,100 beds were affected by ongoing litigation at that time. This same report stated that the UC "provides housing opportunities that are generally at least 20 percent below market rate" and that "the supply of beds despite new inventory has not been able to keep up with the demand and increased enrollment." The report noted that "CEQA litigation creates significant delay for delivery of housing projects, while the threat of CEQA litigation and its inherent unpredictability slows the housing project entitlement process." Campus housing

plans, as of 2023, included funding for "22,000 student beds between fall 2023 and fall 2028" and future plans of an "additional 16,000 beds," which if funded, could lead to an additional 38,000 future beds. The California State University Systemwide Housing Plan states that "market demand for Fall 2030 is estimated at 15,370 beds, up from an estimated 13,250 in the 2022 plan."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Student Homes Coalition (source)
Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor
ASUCD Housing and Transportation Advocacy Committee
California Apartment Association
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
California State University, Sacramento
California YIMBY
College Democrats at UC Irvine
Davis College Democrats
Student Homes at San Jose State University
Student Homes at UCLA
Student Homes at UCSB
Student Homes at UCSD
Urban Studies Student Association
University Housing Rights Organization at UC Berkeley
YouthBridge Housing

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

> While California has made meaningful progress in addressing its housing crisis, a significant shortage still persists. Students across the higher education system are among the most severely affected by the housing shortage. An estimated 417,000 students across the UC, CSU, and CCC systems lack stable housing, and more than 30,000 students are on waiting lists for housing provided by these universities.
>
> SB 916 aims to protect student housing by clarifying that courts have discretion to require a bond in lawsuits challenging student housing. While existing law

already grants courts this discretion for affordable housing projects, it does not extend the same protection to student housing. By closing this gap, SB 916 will allow much-needed student housing projects to proceed without barriers or unnecessary delays.

The Student Homes Coalition, the sponsor of this bill, writes in support stating:

> […] The need for more housing on college campuses is dire. UC[s] and CSUs are only able to house 39% and 14% of their students respectively, while just 16 out of 116 Community Colleges operate any housing at all. The student housing shortage is not due to lack of interest in development, but rather regulatory barriers that render university projects infeasible. Students pay the price both literally and figuratively for outdated housing regulations. Increased construction costs limit supply and raise rents, and the tens of thousands of students who can't keep up with rising costs end up homeless every year.
> The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a major driver of housing unaffordability on our campuses. Interest groups and community members often weaponize CEQA to block campus housing projects at the expense of California's students. According to the UC Regents, 7 UC student housing projects were sued under CEQA in just five years between 2018 and 2022.
>
> Litigation delays projects and drives up housing costs, resulting in fewer available units, increased student homelessness.

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/24/26 16:28:47

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 920
Author: Archuleta (D)
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 29-1, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Jones
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Choi, Grove, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern, Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: The Gambling Control Act: regulatory fees

SOURCE: Communities for California Cardrooms

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), upon the adoption or amendment of a fee that is deposited into the Gambling Control Fund (Fund), the

Commission or DOJ to post on its public internet website a detailed statement of the need for, purpose of, and authorized use of the fee, as specified.

Assembly Amendments delete the requirement that the Commission and DOJ adopt and maintain a regulate that states the authorized purpose and use of the fee.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), the Commission, which is responsible for licensing and regulating various gambling activities and establishments. Under the Act, the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau), under DOJ, is responsible for investigating any violations of, and enforcing controlled gaming activities under the Act. (Business and Professions Code section 19800 et seq.)

2) Vests DOJ with the responsibility to investigate violations of prohibitions against specified gambling activities, as enumerated in the Penal Code, including, among others, prohibitions against lotteries, certain games played with cards, dice or any device, or money, and slot machines.

3) Establishes the Fund within the State Treasury and provides that funds shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by DOJ and the Commission exclusively for the support of DOJ and the Commission in carrying out their duties and responsibilities under the Act.

4) Requires, with respect to fees, the regulations to include a prescribed manner and method for the collection and payment of fees and issuance of licenses.

This bill:

1) Requires the Commission and DOJ, upon the adoption or amendment of a fee that is deposited into the Fund, to post on its public internet website a detailed statement of the need for, purpose of, and authorized use of the fee, as specified.

2) Provides that the provisions of this bill do not apply to any fee adopted or amended prior to January 1, 2027

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "SB 920 will ensure that all fees collected under the [Act] are clearly tied to their specified regulatory purposes and that stakeholders – including licensees, public officials, and the public – can readily understand how fee revenues are used to support the oversight responsibilities of the [Commission] and the [DOJ]. Under current law, when fees are set or adjusted, the purpose and cost basis aren't consistently laid out in regulation. This makes budgeting opaque, invites cross-subsidies, and fuels friction in rulemaking. An audit report on Fund fees completed in 2018 identified this as an issue and recommended that the Legislature take action. SB 920 implements that recommendation and ensures transparency surrounding Act fees."

California's Cardrooms. California's cardrooms have operated in some capacity since the Gold rush era. Currently, there are approximately 83 cardrooms that operate in 32 counties in California. There are approximately 2,203 tables licensed for play statewide, many of which are located in Los Angeles, the Central Coast, the Bay Area, and the Central Valley. A small percentage are large in scale, the rest are smaller operations, sometimes as small as one table, scattered throughout the state. The industry generates roughly $850 million in revenue after winnings. Cardrooms and their owners are subject to state business and income taxes. Additionally, about $24 million in fees are projected to be collected annually from the industry to support state regulatory and problem gaming costs.

The Act provides the Commission with jurisdiction over the operation of gambling establishments in California. The Act requires every owner, lessee, or employee of a gambling establishment to obtain and maintain a valid state gambling license and assigns the Commission with responsibility of assuring that gambling licenses are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is harmful to the public health, safety, or welfare. The Act directs the Commission to issue licenses only to those persons of good character, honesty and integrity; whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state.

The DOJ, through the Bureau, monitors the conduct of gaming operations to ensure compliance with state gambling laws and conducts extensive background investigations of applicants seeking a state gambling license. The Bureau also conducts background checks for all key employees and state gambling licensees and vendor applications. The Bureau also inspects premises where gambling is conducted, examines gambling equipment, audits papers, books, and records of the

gambling establishment, investigates suspected violations of gambling laws, and is ultimately responsible for enforcing compliance with all state laws pertaining to gambling.

Existing law establishes the Fund in the State Treasury and provides that funds should be used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by DOJ and the Commission exclusively for the support of DOJ and the Commission in carrying out their duties and responsibilities under the Act.

State Auditor Report. In May 2019, the California State Auditor (Auditor) released a report titled, *Bureau of Gambling Control and California Gambling Control Commission: Their Licensing Processes are Inefficient and Foster Unequal Treatment of Applicants.* The audit examined how the DOJ's and the Commission's process licenses for individuals and businesses working in California's cardroom gaming industry.

The audit concluded that both agencies have implemented fee structures that result in unequal treatment of license applicants. Although the audit did not find evidence of discrimination by either entity based on applicants' ethnicity or other protected characteristics, it determined that the DOJ's incomplete and inconsistent procedures led to disparities in the level of scrutiny applied to different applicants. Relevant to this bill, the audit also found that neither the DOJ nor the Commission has addressed the misalignment between the fees they collect and the actual costs of providing regulatory oversight. The audit noted that this misalignment has contributed to a substantial surplus in the Fund and may raise questions regarding the legality of certain fees.

In order to ensure that all fees that generate revenue for the Fund have a clear, stated purpose limiting their use, the Auditor recommends that, "the Legislature should require that when updating fee amounts, the commission and the bureau must also update their regulations to include clear statements about the need for an appropriate use of each type of fee." Based on that recommendation, this bill would require the Commission and DOJ, upon the adoption or amendment of a fee that is deposited into the Fund, the Commission or DOJ to post on its public internet website a detailed statement of the need for, purpose of, and authorized use of the fee, as specified.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 451 (Archuleta, Chapter 584, Statutes of 2025) clarifies the DOJ's authority to investigate suspected violations of illegal gambling activities conducted outside of

licensed cardrooms, irrespective of whether the suspected violation involves licensees.

AB 553 (Ramos, Chapter 533, Statutes of 2023) requires DOJ to develop and implement a policy and procedure for employees assigned to the Bureau to formally track those house and other expenses that can be charged to the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, as specified.

AB 1268 (Patterson) of 2022 would have required the Commission and DOJ, when increasing a fee amount, to include a clear statement justifying the need for the fee increase and explaining how the funds will be used in the regulation updating the fee. (Never Heard in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, costs to the Commission to update regulations to reflect the collection of new or adjusted fees and post related information on the CGCC's website (Gambling Control Fund). However, the Commission notes that this bill places regulatory burdens on the Commission beyond what other agencies face when setting fees, which may delay future annual fee adjustment rulemaking proceedings and result in a temporary overcollection or under collection of outdated fee amounts that may not align with the most recent cost and fee data. The Commission further notes that such outdated fee amounts would temporarily result in a proportionate surplus or shortall of an unknown magnitude in the Gambling Control Fund until regulations are appropriately updated through the regular rulemaking process, which includes specified public comment and review periods.

Additionally, minor absorbable costs to DOJ to similarly update regulations and post information online. However, potential impact of an unknown magnitude to the Gambling Control Fund to the extent DOJ also faces delays when adopting or adjusting fees as a result of this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Communities for California Cardrooms (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Communities for California Cardrooms, "this provision is an important step toward ensuring that all fees collected under the [Act] are clearly tied to their specified regulatory purposes and that stakeholders – including licensees, public officials, and the public – can readily understand how fee revenues are used to support the oversight responsibilities of the [Commission] and the [Bureau]. By requiring published statements of purpose and cost basis summaries, SB 920 advances good governance practices and promote greater transparency in fee adoption and expenditure and protect the integrity of regulatory funding mechanisms."

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/25/26 15:24:58

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 923
Author: Becker (D)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 31-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Caballero, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Niello, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Consumer privacy requests: deletion request records and request submission methods

SOURCE: California Privacy Protection Agency

DIGEST: This bill expands consumers' right to deletion of their personal information pursuant to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and requires specified online businesses to provide consumers an online method for exercising rights under the CCPA.

Assembly Amendments add a series of related findings and declarations and make technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CCPA, which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to restrict the sale or sharing of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.100 et seq.)

2) Provides a consumer the right, at any time, to request that a business delete any personal information about the consumer which the business has collected from the consumer, except as specified. Businesses must disclose this right to consumers. (Civ. Code § 1798.105.)

3) Requires a business that receives a verifiable consumer request from a consumer to delete the consumer's personal information to delete the consumer's personal information from its records, notify any service providers or contractors to delete the consumer's personal information from their records, and notify all third parties to whom the business has sold or shared the personal information to delete the consumer's personal information unless this proves impossible or involves disproportionate effort. (Civ. Code § 1798.105.)

4) Requires businesses to make available to consumers two or more designated methods for submitting requests for information required to be disclosed, or requests for deletion or correction, respectively, including, at a minimum, a toll-free telephone number. A business that operates exclusively online and has a direct relationship with a consumer from whom it collects personal information shall only be required to provide an email address for submitting such requests, as provided. If the business maintains a website, it must make the website available to consumers to submit requests for information required to be disclosed or requests for deletion or correction (Civ. Code § 1798.130(a)(1).)

5) Defines "personal information" as information that identifies, relates to, describes, is reasonably capable of being associated with, or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly, with a particular consumer or household. The CCPA provides a nonexclusive series of categories of information deemed to be personal information, including identifiers, biometric information, and geolocation data. (Civ. Code § 1798.140(v).) The CCPA defines and provides additional protections for sensitive personal information, as defined, that reveals specified personal information about consumers. (Civ. Code § 1798.140(ae).)

6) Establishes the CPRA, which amends the CCPA and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy), which is charged with implementing these privacy laws, promulgating regulations, and carrying out enforcement actions. (Civ. Code § 798.100 et seq.; Proposition 24 (2020).)

7) Permits amendment of the CPRA by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature and the signature of the Governor, provided such amendments are consistent with and further the purpose and intent of this act as set forth therein. (Proposition 24 § 25 (2020).)

This bill:

1) Grants consumers the right to request that a business delete any personal information about the consumer which the business has collected.

2) Provides that a business that has obtained personal information about a consumer from a source other than the consumer shall be deemed in compliance with a consumer's request to delete that data by retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum data necessary for the purpose of ensuring the consumer's personal information remains deleted from the business's records and is not being used for any other purpose.

3) Requires a business that operates exclusively online and has a direct relationship with a consumer from whom it collects personal information to make an online method, such as a web form or online portal, available for submitting requests.

4) States the finding that these changes further the purposes and intent of the CPRA.

5) Makes a series of related findings and declarations.

Background

The CCPA grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. (Civ. Code § 1798.100 et seq.) In the November 3, 2020, election, voters approved Proposition 24, which established the California Privacy Rights Act of 2020 (CPRA). The CPRA amends the CCPA, limits further amendment, and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency ("CalPrivacy"). Relevant here, the CCPA provides a consumer the right, at any time, to request that a business delete any personal information about the consumer which the business has collected *from* the

consumer. To provide greater protection, this bill now extends this deletion right to all information a business has about the consumer and updates the appropriate process for complying with such a request.

The CCPA requires businesses to make multiple methods available to consumers for submitting requests pursuant to that law. However, businesses that operate exclusively online are only required to make an email address available for such purposes. This bill additionally requires such online businesses to make another online method, such as a webform or portal available for such purposes. This bill is sponsored by CalPrivacy. It is supported by a number of privacy and consumer advocacy groups, including Kapor Center Advocacy and the California Initiative for Technology & Democracy. It is opposed by a coalition of industry groups, including the Association of National Advertisers. For a more thorough analysis of this bill and its provisions, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis, which is incorporated herein.

Comments

The CCPA grants a consumer the right to request that a business delete any personal information about the consumer that the business has collected from the consumer. However, a business is not required to comply with such a request to delete if it is necessary for the business to maintain the consumer's personal information in order to carry out certain obligations or other conduct.

A business that receives a verifiable consumer request from a consumer to delete the consumer's personal information must delete the consumer's personal information from its records, notify any service providers or contractors to delete the consumer's personal information from their records, and notify all third parties to whom the business has sold or shared the personal information to delete the consumer's personal information unless this proves impossible or involves disproportionate effort.

Businesses are also required, pursuant to the CCPA, to make available to consumers two or more designated methods for submitting various requests for information required to be disclosed, or requests for deletion or correction, including, at a minimum, a toll-free telephone number. However, a business that operates exclusively online and has a direct relationship with a consumer from whom it collects personal information is only required to provide an email address for submitting such requests, as provided. If the business maintains a website, it must make the website available to consumers to submit requests for information required to be disclosed or requests for deletion or correction.

According to the author:

> Businesses today routinely augment consumer records with data purchased from third parties to enhance targeting, personalization, and profiling. For example, a retail company might collect basic information directly from the consumer and then purchase detailed demographic data, purchasing histories, and other behavioral information from data brokers to create a rich profile used for marketing and pricing decisions.
>
> The CCPA's current right to deletion targets data a business collects from consumers, but not the full scope of data a company may hold and use to make decisions about individuals. Additionally, it may make businesses more vulnerable to security incidents like data breaches — even after a consumer has taken steps to protect the privacy and security of their information.
>
> Additionally, while most businesses must provide two or more methods to submit privacy requests, online-only businesses that have a direct relationship with the consumer are only required to provide an email address for consumers to submit most privacy requests under the CCPA. This single-method requirement for certain businesses creates barriers for consumers because it offers minimal support or guidance.
>
> Californians should have accessible and frictionless mechanisms to exercise their existing privacy rights, and when they do so, they should feel secure in knowing they've protected themselves from unwanted data retention.
>
> This bill would strengthen consumers' rights under the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) by expanding the right to delete to cover all personal information a business holds about them, and by requiring online businesses to provide consumers with a webform, online portal, or similar method to submit requests to delete their personal information. By expanding the CCPA's right to delete personal information, and by improving how consumers can exercise that right, this bill further empowers Californians to take measures to protect their personal information should they choose.

As stated, this bill extends consumers' deletion rights by extending them to all information collected by a business *about* the consumer, regardless of where it is

collected from. Additionally, for businesses operating exclusively online that have a direct relationship with a consumer, this bill now requires they make an online method available.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy) anticipates minor near term implementation and enforcement costs. CalPrivacy is responsible for enacting and enforcing the CCPA and promoting public awareness of consumers' privacy rights and businesses' obligations. Based on overall compliance with the requirements of this bill, additional resources for enforcement may be required in future years.

- The Consumer Protection Section within the Public Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) anticipates increased workload to investigate and prosecute violations of this bill's expanded consumer deletion rights and new online request requirements as well as provide technical support to review compliance with these new requirements.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Costs of $600,000 or less annually (Consumer Privacy Fund, General Fund) to the Department of Justice (DOJ), beginning January 1, 2027, to investigate and prosecute violations of the expanded deletion right and online-method requirement, provide technical support to review compliance, and respond to increased consumer inquiries and complaints. DOJ reports the Consumer Protection Section requires a deputy attorney general and a legal secretary, and the Public Inquiry Unit within the DOJ, which receives CCPA complaints in significant volume, requires an analyst. DOJ notes the Consumer Privacy Fund is the appropriate fund source for these activities but reports insufficient cash in that fund at this time, requiring General Fund support, and states the costs cannot be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

- Enforcement costs to the California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy), which CalPrivacy anticipates will be absorbable in the near term (Consumer Privacy Fund). CalPrivacy reports the volume of potential investigations already vastly exceeds available resources, and that expanding the scope of the CCPA may add questions to existing investigations but is unlikely to measurably increase short-term workload given a large backlog. CalPrivacy

notes that, depending on overall compliance with the bill's requirements, enforcement may require additional resources in future years.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Privacy Protection Agency (source)
California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a Project of California Common CAUSE
California Low-income Consumer Coalition
Consumer Reports
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
Kapor Center Advocacy
Oakland Privacy
Omidyar Network
Privacy Defense Alliance
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Techequity Action

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

Association of National Advertisers
California Chamber of Commerce
California Restaurant Association
Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC)
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Insights Association
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Software Information Industry Association
Technet

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: CalPrivacy writes:

> [T]he existing right to delete under the CCPA only requires deletion of personal information collected from the consumer and therefore does not address the full scope of personal information held and used by a business to make decisions about the individual. It could create a false sense of protection by failing to address personal information collected from third parties. It also leaves a portion of a consumer's personal information vulnerable to security incidents like data breaches even after a consumer has taken steps to protect the privacy and security of their information by requesting deletion.

Extending the right to delete to all personal information held about a consumer provides more meaningful privacy protections and aligns better with consumer intent and expectations. When a consumer submits a request to delete, they should have confidence that all their personal information will be deleted regardless of how the business collected the information.

SB 923 also supports consumers by improving the accessibility of privacy rights under the CCPA. This bill makes it easier for consumers to exercise their rights by requiring online-only businesses to offer multiple methods to submit privacy requests, rather than only requiring an email address.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of industry groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, writes:

[T]he bill fails to recognize that a business should also be deemed in compliance with a consumer's request to delete their data by opting the consumer out of processing for non-exempt purposes, in addition to retaining the minimum data necessary to honor the deletion request.

While the exemptions under Civil Code Sec. 1798.150 presumably apply, explicitly including this language provides clarity, particularly when this bill appears modeled upon other states like Virginia that have expressly adopted both limitations upon the right of deletion. From an operational and legal perspective, this language is essential to prevent confusion, to ensure technical scalability, and to allow businesses to fulfill obligations related to fraud prevention, security monitoring, and legal compliance.

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548; Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/26/26 14:31:14

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 936
Author: Blakespear (D) and Umberg (D), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 3/17/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Pérez, Reyes, Wiener

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/13/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Nitrous oxide: sales

SOURCE: County of Orange; National Stewardship Action Council; Rural Counties of California; San Diego County District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill creates four new infractions related to the sale or distribution of nitrous oxide, including making it unlawful to sell, offer to sell, or distribute a nitrous oxide container that is capable of holding more than eight grams of nitrous

oxide or a nitrous oxide container from which an individual may directly inhale nitrous oxide, except as specified.

Assembly Amendments prohibit a person who is engaged in the business of selling cigarettes or tobacco products from possessing, storing, owning, or selling nitrous oxide in violation of the criminal provisions in this bill at any site where cigarettes and tobacco products are stored or sold; subject a violator to civil penalties in amounts depending on the aggregate retail value of the seized nitrous oxide and the number of violations within five years of the first violation; and establish procedures for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to follow for a court-ordered tobacco retailer license revocation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "nitrous oxide" to mean any of the following substances: N2O, dinitrogen monoxide, dinitrogen oxide, nitrogen oxide, or laughing gas. (Penal (Pen.) Code § 381c, subdivision (subd.) (a).)

2) Makes it a misdemeanor to sell, furnish, administer, distribute, give away, or offer to sell, furnish, administer, distribute, or give away a device, canister, tank, or receptacle containing nitrous oxide to a person under 18 years of age. (Pen. Code § 381c, subd. (b).)

3) Makes it a misdemeanor to dispense or distribute nitrous oxide to a person if the dispenser or distributor of the nitrous oxide knows or should know that the person is going to use the nitrous oxide for the purpose of intoxication, and that person proximately causes great bodily injury or death to himself, herself, or another person. (Pen. Code § 381d.)

4) Requires that a person who dispenses or distributes nitrous oxide record each transaction in a written or electronic document. (Pen. Code § 381e.)

5) Provides that the person dispensing or distributing the nitrous oxide require the purchaser to sign the document recording the transaction, provide a complete residential address, and present valid government-issued photo identification. Existing law also requires that the person dispensing or distributing the nitrous oxide sign and date the document and retain the document at the person's

business address for one year from the date of the transaction for inspection. (Pen. Code § 381e.)

6) Requires that the document signed by the purchaser include all of the following:

   a) That inhalation of nitrous oxide outside of a clinical setting may have dangerous health effects.
   b) That it is a violation of state law to possess nitrous oxide with the intent to breathe, inhale, or ingest it for the purpose of intoxication.
   c) That it is a violation of state law to knowingly distribute or dispense nitrous oxide to a person who intends to breathe, inhale, or ingest it for the purpose of intoxication. (Pen. Code § 381e.)

This bill:

1) Makes it unlawful for any person to sell, offer to sell, or distribute a nitrous oxide container that is capable of holding more than eight grams of nitrous oxide, except as provided.

2) Makes it unlawful for any person to sell, offer to sell, or distribute a nitrous oxide container which an individual may directly inhale nitrous oxide, except as provided.

3) Makes it unlawful to sell or distribute nitrous oxide that has, or is marketed as having, the taste or smell of any food, including, but not limited to, any fruit, candy, dessert, alcoholic beverage, herb, or spice, that is distinguishable by an ordinary consumer either prior to or during consumption or use of the product.

4) Makes it unlawful to sell, offer to sell, or distribute a device that allows an individual to inhale nitrous oxide from the nitrous oxide container or to hold nitrous oxide released from the nitrous oxide container for purposes of inhalation.

5) Provides that a violation of the above provisions is punishable as an infraction. Specifies that the penalties are a fine of not more than $500 for the first offense, $1,000 for a second offense, or $2,000 for a third and subsequent offense.

6) Authorizes a court to issue either of the following orders:

a) The suspension of a business license issued by the state, a city, a county, or a city and county, for a period of up to one year, of a business that knowingly violates the provisions of this bill following a prior conviction.
b) The revocation of a license issued pursuant to the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act of 2003, of a business that knowingly violates any of the above provisions following two prior convictions.

7) Requires the court to provide a copy of any suspension order to the appropriate regulating agency.

8) Specifies that its provisions do not apply to nitrous oxide or a nitrous oxide container that meets any of the following:

a) Has been denatured or otherwise rendered unfit for human consumption for use.
b) Is intended and marketed for use by a manufacturer as part of a manufacturing process or industrial operation.
c) Is specifically designed and marketed for use in a vehicle to enhance the performance of the vehicle.
d) Is sold to a licensed medical or dental practitioner to be administered or prescribed as part of the care or treatment of a disease, condition, or injury.
e) Contains less than nine grams of nitrous oxide as a propellant in food or to be used in food preparation for restaurant, food service, or houseware products.
f) Is sold by a wholesaler for any of the above listed purposes.

9) Provides the following definitions:

a) "Distributor" means a person who sells a product to a retailer in violation of the provisions of this bill, or accepts an order for a product from a retailer in violation of the provisions of this bill.
b) "Nitrous oxide container" means "a device, canister, tank, or receptacle either exclusively containing nitrous oxide or exclusively containing a chemical compound mixed with nitrous oxide."
c) "Nitrous oxide" has the same meaning as it does in existing law.

10) Provides that a reference to a sale, offer to sell, distribution, advertisement, or provision of a product or service includes conduct that occurs in person, through the internet, or through any other electronic or digital means.

11) Specifies that the provisions of this bill do not limit the authority of a city, county, or city and county to adopt or enforce a local ordinance that further restricts the sale, furnishing, offering, or distribution of nitrous oxide.

Background

Nitrous oxide is a colorless, odorless to sweet-smelling gas used to manage pain and anxiety in dentistry as well as other clinical settings. (American Dental Association, *Nitrous Oxide* <https://www.ada.org/resources/ada-library/oral-health-topics/nitrous-oxide .) In addition, it is used in food preparation and as an oxidizer in model rockets and motor vehicle racing.

Nitrous oxide is also misused as a recreational drug and produces short-lived euphoric and hallucinogenic effects. It is consumed in the form of whippets—balloons filled with the gas via small, pressurized canisters designed to be used in whipped cream dispensers. Nitrous oxide has become increasingly popular, particularly among teens and young adults, due to its low cost and availability online and in grocery and convenience stores, gas stations, and shops that sell vapes and other tobacco-related products. (Centers for Disease and Control, *Notes from the Field: Recreational Nitrous Oxide Misuse—Michigan, 2019-2023* (Apr. 10, 2025) <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/74/wr/mm7412a3.htm .) Short-term side effects include slurred speech, dizziness, and headaches. (American Addiction Centers, *Nitrous Oxide (Whippet) Abuse, Side Effects, & Treatment* (Dec. 31. 2024) <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/inhalant-abuse/nitrous-oxide-whippets .) Although nitrous oxide use is often perceived by those using it as safe or harmless, repeated use can cause severe neurologic, cardiovascular, and psychiatric effects, including hallucinations, delusions, organ damage, nerve damage, seizures, coma, and death. (*Id*.)

In addition to the harmful physical effects that nitrous oxide misuse can have on users, the discarded canisters containing nitrous oxide have presented challenges for waste management and recycling companies.

This bill creates four new infractions related to the sale or distribution of nitrous oxide. A first violation carries a fine of not more than $500, a second violation carries a fine of not more than $1000, and a third or subsequent offense carries a fine of not more than $2,000. A court would also be authorized to suspend business licenses for any business that knowingly violates the infractions that this bill creates. Specifically, this bill makes it unlawful to do any of the following:

- Sell, furnish, offer, distribute, or give away a nitrous oxide container that is capable of holding more than eight grams of nitrous oxide.
- Sell, furnish, offer, distribute, or give away a nitrous oxide container which an individual may directly inhale nitrous oxide.
- Sell or distribute nitrous oxide that has, or is marketed as having, the taste or smell of any food, including, but not limited to, any fruit, candy, dessert, alcoholic beverage, herb, or spice, that is distinguishable by an ordinary consumer either prior to or during consumption or use of the product.
- Sell, offer, distribute, or otherwise provide a device that allows an individual to inhale nitrous oxide from the nitrous oxide container or to hold nitrous oxide released from the nitrous oxide container for purposes of inhalation.

This bill explicitly exempts nitrous oxide or a nitrous oxide container that meets any of the following:

- Has been denatured or otherwise rendered unfit for human consumption for use.
- Is intended and marketed for use by a manufacturer as part of a manufacturing process or industrial operation.
- Is specifically designed and marketed for use in a vehicle to enhance the performance of the vehicle.
- Is sold to a licensed medical or dental practitioner to be administered or prescribed as part of the care or treatment of a disease, condition, or injury.
- Contains less than nine grams of nitrous oxide as a propellant in food or to be used in food preparation for restaurant, food service, or houseware products.
- Is sold by a wholesaler for any of the above listed purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

CDTFA estimates costs of $258,000 in 2026-27 and $288,000 in 2027-28 and ongoing for administration related to license or permit suspensions, performing inspections to ensure compliance with the court-ordered suspension provisions, issuing civil or criminal citations for violations of the suspension provisions, seizing cigarettes and tobacco products for violations of the suspension provisions, and revoking the suspended license for violations during suspension (Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund).

Cost pressures of an unknown amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional filings. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded based on workload, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund, which put pressure for increased funding from the General Fund.

No costs to the Department of Justice.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

County of Orange (co-source)
National Stewardship Action Council (co-source)
Rural Counties of California (co-source)
San Diego County District Attorney's Office (co-source)
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives
California Cannabis Operators Association
California District Attorneys Association
California Medical Association
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Product Stewardship Council
Californians Against Waste
City of Carlsbad
City of Escondido
City of Laguna Niguel
City of Los Alamitos
City of San Juan Capistrano
City of San Jose
City of Sunnyvale
City of Vacaville
Cleanearth4kids.org
County of Mendocino
County of Santa Barbara
County of Santa Clara
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority
Dental Board of California
Facts Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety
Good Farmers Great Neighbors
League of California Cities

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority
Nug, Inc.
Orange County Fire Authority
Recology
Republic Services
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Rethink Waste
Riverside County Sheriff's Office
Sacramento County District Attorney
San Dieguito Alliance for Drug-Free Youth
Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
StopWaste
Swana California Chapters Legislative Task Force
The Last Plastic Straw
Urban Counties of California
Western Placer Waste Management Authority
Zero Waste Marin
Zero Waste Marin Joint Powers Authority
Zero Waste Sonoma
Individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/26)

ACLU California Action
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
San Francisco Public Defender

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/24/26 16:53:59

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 944
Author: Wiener (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-0, 3/25/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 35-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Blakespear, Grove, Niello, Ochoa Bogh

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Medi-Cal: acupuncture

SOURCE: California Acupuncture Coalition

DIGEST: This bill requires the continued coverage of acupuncture in the Medi-Cal program, even if federal matching funds are no longer available, subject to appropriation.

Assembly Amendments add the requirement that the Legislature make a specific appropriation to maintain coverage should federal matching funds no longer be available for acupuncture services.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the Department of Health Care Services, and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. [Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §14000, et seq.]

2) Establishes a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program, which includes benefits required under federal law and benefits provided at the state's option, both of which are funded with federal and state dollars. The schedule of benefits includes acupuncture, provided that federal matching funds are available. [WIC §14132]

This bill requires the continued coverage of acupuncture in the Medi-Cal program, even if federal matching funds are no longer available if the Legislature makes an appropriation for this purpose.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> This bill removes the provision in California code that requires matching federal funds in order for acupuncture to qualify as a Medi-Cal covered benefit. This move ensures that regardless of the federal landscape, California will step up to ensure our most vulnerable communities are receiving the care they deserve. By enshrining acupuncture as a Medi-Cal covered benefit, this bill brings how Medi-Cal treats acupuncture in line with other forms of care such as occupational therapy, chiropractic care, physical therapy, optometric care, mental health services, pharmacy services, and a number of other critical benefits. By establishing acupuncture as a Medi-Cal provided benefit, this bill helps protect this critical form of care from federal funding cuts.

Federal payment for Medicaid services. The federal Medicaid program, which governs the operation of Medi-Cal in California, contains three different types of covered benefits: mandatory benefits that all states must cover; optional benefits that a state may cover by including the benefits in its Medicaid state plan; and benefits that are not on either list. For either mandatory or optional benefits, the federal rate can range from 50% to 90% of the cost of providing the service, with the state paying the remainder. For the third category of Medicaid benefits, those

that are neither mandatory nor optional, the state is required to pay the entire cost of the benefit. Currently, some Medi-Cal services, such as abortions or services to immigrants not qualified to receive federal Medicaid services, are paid for entirely by the state. Acupuncture is an optional federal benefit for which there is federal payment when a state elects to provide the service.

Medi-Cal provision of acupuncture services. According to the Medi-Cal provider manual, acupuncture services are covered when used to prevent, modify, or alleviate the perception of severe, persistent chronic pain resulting from a generally recognized medical condition. Outpatient acupuncture services (with or without electric stimulation of the needles) are limited to two services in a calendar month, although additional services can be provided based upon medical necessity through prior authorization. In order to address a state budget crisis beginning in 2008, AB X3 5 (Evans, Chapter 20, Statutes of 2009) eliminated Medi-Cal coverage of several optional benefits, including audiology, optometry, podiatry, psychology, speech therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic services, optician and optical laboratory services, incontinence creams and washes, and dental services. When the state's finances were on the rebound, the Legislature passed SB 833 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 30, Statutes of 2016) to restore acupuncture as a Medi-Cal benefit for all eligible members. As recently as last year, the Administration proposed in a trailer bill to eliminate acupuncture services as a cost-cutting measure.

Comments

Although this bill was likely prompted by previous cuts or attempts to cut acupuncture services from the Medi-Cal program, this bill's requirement of continued coverage even absent federal financial participation will not prevent future Administrations or Legislatures from attempting to cut acupuncture services in tough budget years as this service is not a mandatory federal benefit. That said, passage of this bill would signal legislative support for acupuncture services.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, General Fund (GF) cost pressures of around $27 million per year, should federal financial participation become unavailable for acupuncture services in the future. The May 2026 Medi-Cal Local Assistance Estimate projects savings of $13.6 million total funds ($5.4 million GF and $8.2 million federal funds) in 2026-27 from eliminating the Medi-Cal acupuncture benefit in January 2027. Thus, the cost of funding the benefit in

the absence of federal matching funds would be approximately $27 million per year (GF).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Acupuncture Coalition (Source)
Academy of Chinese Culture and Health Sciences
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Alhambra Medical University Alumni Association
American Association of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture
API Health Parity Coalition
APLA Health
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Association of Korean Asian Medicine and Acupuncture of America
City and County of San Francisco
Clever Care Health Plan
Dental Board of California
Dongguk University Los Angeles
Family Health Centers of San Diego
Health Access California
Health Alliance of Northern California
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Marin Community Clinics
Neighborhood Healthcare
North Coast Clinics Network
North East Medical Services
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
Santa Cruz Community Clinic
Shasta Community Health Center
Southern California Pacific Islander Community Response Team
The Children's Clinic Serving Children and Their Families
TrueCare
U.S. Pain Foundation
United Acupuncture Association
Whitewater University of California
Several individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The source of this bill, California Acupuncture Coalition, states that acupuncture is a critical form of care with demonstrated benefits for pain management, mental health, addiction treatment, nausea related to chemotherapy, and a range of other conditions and offers an effective low-risk treatment option when conventional approaches may be limited or carry added complications. This bill removes the statutory requirement that acupuncture coverage under Medi-Cal depend on federal matching funds. The U.S. Pain Foundation writes that evidence-informed, non-pharmacologic options such as acupuncture play an important role in multimodal pain management strategies. For individuals enrolled in Medi-Cal, access to comprehensive pain treatment options is frequently limited. When non-drug therapies are not readily available, patients may face fewer choices and reduced ability to participate in balanced treatment plans.

Prepared by: Jen Flory / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 15:45:10

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 955
Author: Blakespear (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Beverage containers: supermarkets: reverse vending machines

SOURCE: Circular CRV

DIGEST: This bill 1) precludes a reverse vending machine from serving a convenience zone; and 2) redefines "supermarket" to grocery stores with more than $6 million of gross annual sales regardless of the presence of a bakery or deli.

Assembly Amendments increase the annual sales to be defined as a "supermarket" from $5 million to $6 million, clarify that recycling centers currently eligible for handling fees remain eligible, and allow CalRecycle to continue to use their methodology for calculating handling fees until 2032.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Bottle Bill), which requires beverage containers, as defined, to have a California redemption value (CRV) of 5 to 10 cents. Requires beverage distributors to pay a redemption payment to CalRecycle for every beverage container sold in the state. Provides that these funds are continuously appropriated to CalRecycle for, among other things, the payment of refund values and processing payments. (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 14500 et seq.)

2) Defines convenience zones as a 1-mile radius around a supermarket (PRC § 14509.4), or a 3- to 5-mile radius in rural areas (PRC § 14571.5)

3) Requires there to be at least one certified recycling center or location within every convenience zone which pays the full refund price for all types of empty CRV containers and is open for business at least 30 hours per week, with a minimum of 5 hours and maximum of 50% of its hours of operation occurring during periods other than Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm to be "served" (PRC § 14571 (a)). Allows recycling centers to operate fewer than 30 hours in rural areas or on an alternative schedule with approval from CalRecycle (PRC § 14571 (c)).

4) Requires beverage dealers in unserved convenience zones to redeem CRV containers at the register (PRC § 14571.6).

5) Establishes dealer cooperative program through SB 1013 (Atkins, Chapter 610, Statutes of 2022) through which beverage dealers may collectively arrange for the collection of beverage containers. Requires that dealer cooperatives redeem all beverage types and submit a redemption plan to CalRecycle for approval. (PRC § 14578 et seq.)

6) Requires CalRecycle to pay handling fees to supermarket sites, non-profit convenience zone recyclers, and rural region recyclers to provide an incentive for the redemption of empty beverage containers in a convenience zone (PRC § 14585).

7) Allows CalReycle to develop a methodology for establishing handling fees reflecting the cost of providing and maintaining recycling in convenience zones by handling fee recipients, including transportation, labor, volume, consumer convenience, and increasing recycling rates, until July 1, 2027. (PRC § 14585)

8) Requires the following for a reverse vending machine to be considered a certified recycling center, through AB 1311 (Wood, Chapter 506, Statutes of 2021):
   a) Accepts all empty beverage containers; or
   b) Provides an attendant to accept all containers that the reverse vending machine cannot accept (such as large containers or pouches); and
   c) Operates a minimum of 30 hours per week. (PRC § 14571 (f-j))

9) Defines a "supermarket" as "a full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars ($2,000,000), or more, and which sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items. For purposes of determining which dealers are supermarkets, the department shall use the annual updates of the Progressive Grocer Marketing Guidebook and any computer printouts developed in conjunction with the guidebook." (PRC § 14526.5).

This bill:

1) Defines supermarkets as a full-line, self-service retail store which:

   a) Has at least six million dollars of gross annual sales;

   b) Sells a line of groceries, canned goods, alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverages, nonfood items, or some perishable items; and

   c) Regardless of whether the retail store operates a bakery or deli

2) Requires CalRecycle to consult the Progressive Grocer Marketing Guidebook when determining which beverage dealers are supermarkets;

3) Stipulates that a reverse vending machine:

   a) Shall not make an unserved convenience zone served;

   b) Shall not preclude a dealer cooperative (pursuant to Section 14578) or a mobile unit (pursuant to Section 2000) from operating or receiving payments in the same convenience zone; and

   c) Shall not make an existing recycling center ineligible for handling fees pursuant to Section 14585(c).

4) Stipulates that a recycling center that was eligible to receive handling fees immediately before the effective date of the bill will continue to be eligible.

5) Allows CalReycle to continue to determine handling fees using the methodology developed pursuant to PRC § 14585 until July 1, 2032.

6) Includes an urgency clause.

Background

1) *Bottle bill background.* The bottle bill was established through legislation in 1986 (AB 2020 Margolin, Chapter 1290, Statutes of 1986) with the joint goals of reducing litter and achieving an 80% recycling rate for all CRV containers in the program. In 2025, CalRecycle reported a 70% recycling rate for CRV containers in the "Biannual Report of Beverage Container Sales, Returns, Redemption, and Recycling Rates."

   The bottle bill operates by adding a 5-25 cent CRV payment to beverage containers in the program. Beverage distributors pay CRV on all new beverage containers they sell in California into the Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BCRF). Distributors then pass the cost of the CRV on to retailers, who in turn pass that 5-25 cents per bottle on to consumers at checkout. Individuals and businesses are incentivized to return bottles to recycling centers where they can redeem the value of the CRV. Once a consumer is ready to dispose of a bottle, they can return bottles to a certified recycling center and redeem their CRV, or consumers can put their bottles in residential curbside recycling collection, wherein the curbside programs, not consumers, keep the CRV on these containers. The redemption rate (the rate at which CRV containers are returned at recycling centers and supermarkets) was 60% for 2024.[1] According to a CalRecycle 2022 Fact Sheet, curbside programs collect about 12% of CRV containers.[2]

2) *Recycling center scarcity*. The Beverage Container Recycling Program (BCRP) requires CalRecycle to set convenience zones and requires that each convenience zone have at least one certified recycling center. A convenience zone is typically a 1-mile radius around a large supermarket in an urban area and a 3- to 5-mile radius in a rural area. Convenience zones without certified recycling centers are considered "unserved." Dealers, any retailer which sells CRV containers, are required to collect and provide redemption for CRV if they are in unserved zones.

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[1] Container Recycling Institute (2025) *Bottle Bill Resource Guide: California*, https://www.bottlebill.org/index.php/current-and-proposed-laws/usa/california

[2] CalRecycle (2023) *Beverage Container Recycling in California Fact Sheet Calendar Year 2022* (DRRR-2023-1726), https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Docs/Publications/Details/1726

California currently has approximately 1,200 certified recycling centers (or buy back centers) across the state.[2,3] Many rural counties have only one or two recycling centers to service large geographic areas. Alpine and Sierra County have none.[4] Between 2014 to 2024, approximately half of California's recycling centers closed.[5]

Though dealers are required to redeem CRV containers if they are in an unserved convenience zone, this does not always happen. Without proper communication to customers (and enforcement from CalRecycle), customers might not realize they can redeem beverage containers at the cash register. If recycling centers are scarce or lack capacity, not only do recycling rates decline, but consumers are left without an opportunity to recover the 5-25 cents per bottle they paid up-front at check-out.

3) *Supermarkets and beverage dealers.* A supermarket is defined as a "full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars ($2,000,000), or more, and which sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items," in conjunction with the Progressive Grocers Guidebook (PRC § 14526, California Code of Regulations (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Tit. 14, § 17987.2). The Progressive Grocer Guidebook is a useful tool which provides estimates of gross sales of food retail locations and whether those locations carry a full line of groceries. Notably, the Progressive Grocery Guide is a proprietary, industry tool which is not openly available.

Additionally, there is an important distinction between supermarkets and dealers. All supermarkets are dealers, but not all dealers are supermarkets. Supermarkets are both beverage dealers and anchor convenience zones. Within a convenience zone, every dealer (supermarket or not) bears some responsibility for CRV container redemption. In an unserved convenience zone, every dealer is obligated to redeem CRV containers at the register. Therefore, every dealer is incentivized in the creation of a certified recycling center or dealer cooperative within their zone.

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[3] CalRecycle (2025) *Beverage Container Recycling in California Fact Sheet Calendar Year 2023* (DRRR-2025-1749), https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Docs/Publications/Details/1750

[4] CalRecycle (2026) *Beverage Container Recycling Centers*, https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters/

[5] Rodd, S. (2024) *Diminishing returns: California's unclaimed bottle deposits hit $820M as recycling centers close*, KPBS, **https://www.kpbs.org/news/environment/2024/06/20/californias-unclaimed-bottle-deposits-820m-recycling-centers-close**

4) *Reverse vending machines in convenience zones*. A reverse vending machine (RVM) is an automated system in which a user can insert an eligible bottle and redeem the CRV. The machine identifies the CRV container (typically by scanning the barcode) to pay out the proper amount. The machine then cleans, sorts, and stores the containers. RVMs offer consumers an accessible and easy to use system to redeem CRV containers for an immediate payout. In contrast, other recycling centers have more limited operating or are further away. However, RVMs also have disadvantages: the machines can only accept one bottle at a time, may be limited in the material or size of container accepted, and have a smaller capacity than other recycling centers. Once an RVM is full, it cannot accept more containers until it is emptied. RVMs vary in size but typically accept between 200 and 600 containers, with some accepting more than one thousand.[6,7] In contrast, recycling centers can take up to 200 containers or 1,200 pounds of containers per person per day; there is effectively no limit on what a certified recycling center can accept per day.[8]

   RVMs have different requirements for hours of operation than traditional recycling centers. A certified recycling center must be open for 30 hours per week with between 30 and 50% of those hours occurring outside of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and sufficiently staffed to accept all beverage types (PRC § 14571 (a-e)). RVMs are exempted from the staffing requirement and are instead considered "open for business" as long as the equipment is functioning (PRC § 14571 (f)).

   Currently, reverse vending machines alone cannot serve a convenience zone. However, reverse vending machines operated by a certified recycling center or dealer cooperative and with a host dealer (the beverage dealer collocated with the reverse vending machine) can serve a convenience zone. Due to the limited capacity of RVMs and limited capacity for enforcement, a full or broken RVM without sufficient signage may leave customers without the ability to redeem containers within a "served" convenience zone.

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "California's Beverage Container Recycling Program, originally enacted in 1984, significantly reduced litter and

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[6] Fortune Business Insights (2026) *Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Market Size, Share, and Industry Analysis*, https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/reverse-vending-machine-market-113029
[7] Recyclever, *RVM5-1200 Reverse Vending Machine*, https://www.recyclever.com/blog/articles-10/rvm5-1200-reverse-vending-machine-323
[8] CalRecycle (2023) *Beverage Container Recycling Program Fact Sheet*, https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters/

dramatically improved recycling rates. It did this by establishing a California Redemption Value (CRV) paid on beverage containers when purchased that could be collected when the containers were returned. However, outdated definitions and limited infrastructure have created recycling "dead zones" in some parts of the state where consumers have few or no practical redemption options, thereby undercutting the state's recycling efforts.

"Under current law, some high-volume beverage retailers are not required to participate due to antiquated grocery store definitions, and a single reverse vending machine can qualify as "serving" an area even when its limited capacity cannot accommodate the volume of containers sold in that area.

"SB 955 builds on reforms enacted in SB 1013 (Atkins, 2021) by requiring all high-volume beverage retailers to participate in the program and mandating that collection facilities within each community have sufficient capacity to collect all bottles and cans sold there."

2) *A Supermarket by any other name*. SB 955 aims to shift the responsibility of CRV redemption from small, full line grocers to large beverage dealers which may not be considered a supermarket under existing statute. Under existing law, some beverage dealers aren't supermarkets and therefore are not contributing to the bottle bill by anchoring a convenience zone, despite acting as a grocery store for an area. Often, these beverage dealers sell a *partial* line of groceries (such as a limited selection of fruits and vegetables) and a large volume of CRV containers. In such cases, a smaller grocer with a full line of groceries could bear more responsibility for CRV redemption in a convenience zone than a megastore with a partial line of groceries.

   Beverage dealers *outside* of a convenience zone do not have the same responsibilities. These beverage dealers could have millions in sales of CRV containers without increasing redemption opportunities for customers. Importantly, any change to statute which decreases the number of convenience zones could exacerbate this problem.

   SB 955 increases the gross annual sales threshold for a supermarket from $2 million to $6 million, to adjust for inflation and to shift the burden of CRV redemption from small, full line grocers. While increasing the gross sales to $6 million could decrease the number of eligible supermarkets, it is still less than if the value had been adjusted for inflation (which would be upward of $8 million according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator between 1980 and 2026). It is unclear to what extent raising the gross sales from $2 million to $6 million will impact the number of "supermarkets."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

"1) The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) estimates ongoing annual costs of about $328,000 for two positions (Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BCRF)) to implement the bill. CalRecycle asserts the proposed changes to the definition of "supermarket" will alter CZs and require the department to (a) redefine the maps associated with CZs and (2) provide ongoing technical assistance to recycling centers and dealer cooperatives related to their monthly handling fees.

"The Budget Act of 2026 includes seven permanent positions and about $1 million ongoing (BCRF) for CalRecycle to perform compliance and enforcement tasks associated with the requirements related to dealers and dealer cooperatives enacted by SB 1013 (Atkins), Chapter 610, Statutes of 2023. Given these recently approved resources, it is not clear to the committee that the workload associated with implementing this bill requires two additional positions in an ongoing capacity.

"2) CalRecycle does not anticipate an increase in California Redemption Value (CRV) redemption, processing payments, or handling fees, because the department does not expect the volume of CRV containers returned to change significantly because of this bill. Dealers redeeming in-store are not reimbursed for redemption and are not eligible for program payments, such as handling fees, so even if there is a large increase in dealers required to redeem in-store, CalRecycle does not anticipate there will be a corresponding increase in expenditures from the BCRF.

"CalRecycle reports BCRF had an ending balance of about $822 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 and is projected to have an ending balance of about $718 million at the end of this FY – although this figure could change based on actuals provided at the end of the FY."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Circular CRV (source)
A Voice for Choice Advocacy
California Grocers Association
Glass Packaging Institute
Pet Recycling Corp of California
Rural County Representatives of California
Tomra North America, INC.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Allan Company
Olyns

Prepared by: Alyssa Poletti / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 16:40:37

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 958
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-5, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: City of San Diego: Midway Rising Specific Plan

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), provides that building height is not a significant impact on the environment for specified non-industrial infill projects.

Assembly Amendments strike the specification that building height is not a significant impact under CEQA for projects greater than 40 acres and exceeded

one hundred million dollars and the requirement that projects provide jobs that pay prevailing wages.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires under CEQA that a lead agency determines whether a project is exempt from CEQA, or if it must do an initial study to determine if a project will have significant effects on the environment. If a project has no effect on the environment or effects that can be mitigated, the lead agency prepares a negative declaration (ND) or mitigated ND (MND). If the project will have significant impacts, the lead agency prepares an environmental impact report (EIR) to evaluate and propose mitigation measures for any effects on the environment, including impacts or likely impacts to land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and historic or aesthetic significance. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§21000 et seq.)

2) Establishes over 135 statutory CEQA exemptions in the public resources code, water code, government code and other statutes.

3) Establishes 33 categorical CEQA exemptions in the California Code of Regulations. (CEQA guidelines §15260- 15285). Categorical exemptions generally do not apply if there are significant environmental effects of the project, and specific exclusions include the site being located in a sensitive environment, on a hazardous waste site, having cumulative impacts over time, significantly adversely impacting a historic resource, or it there are other unusual circumstances that would cause a project to have a reasonable possibility for a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

This bill:

1) Prohibits the environmental impacts of a project that are associated with increased building height alone, including air circulation, noise and light refraction or reflection, shadow, or the potential to attract wildlife, from being considered significant impacts on the environment if the project meets the following conditions:
   a) The use and density of the project is otherwise analyzed in a certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
   b) The project is on a previously graded infill site
   c) There are no sensitive biological resources physically present on the site.

d) The project is not an industrial use project.
e) *The project is consistent with local airport land use plans*

Background

1) *The A, B, C's of CEQA*. CEQA is designed to (a) make government agencies and the public aware of the environmental impacts of a proposed project, (b) ensure the public can take part in the review process, and (c) identify and implement measures to mitigate or eliminate any negative impact the project may have on the environment. CEQA is enforced by civil lawsuits that can challenge any project's environmental review. Nonprofits, private individuals, public agencies, advocacy groups, and other organizations can all file lawsuits under CEQA: CEQA is the only state environmental protection law that allows for citizen lawsuits. In the case of a CEQA lawsuit, it is ultimately up to the courts to determine if the environmental review was sufficient to meet the requirements of CEQA.

2) *Environmental Review under CEQA*. Under CEQA, projects (unless they have a specific exemption) must undergo environmental analysis. This process starts with an initial study which determines what level of further environmental review is needed for a given project. If a project has no significant effects on the environment, or if those effects can be fully mitigated, the project can move forward with a negative declaration (ND) or mitigated negative declaration (MND). If the initial study finds that the project has potential significant effects on the environment, then a full EIR is conducted. An EIR provides thorough environmental review of a proposed project, analyzing the significant direct and indirect environmental impacts of a proposed project on water quality, transportation, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, terrestrial and aquatic biological resources, surface and subsurface hydrology, land use and agricultural resources, aesthetics, geology and soils, recreation, public services and utilities such as water supply and wastewater disposal, and cultural resources, among other factors. The EIR also includes proposed mitigation measures for any significant effects that it identifies and considers alternatives to the proposed project.

3) *Midway Rising.* Midway Rising is a proposed development in the City of San Diego that covers 49 acres of City-owned land at the San Diego Sports Arena site in the Midway-Pacific Highway community. The project is envisioned to include a 16,000-seat sports arena, 14 acres of parks and public space, a mixed-use entertainment, arts, and cultural district, and 4,250 housing units (2,000 of

which will be affordable at 80% below area median income). The project is intended to replace an older stadium and associated parking lots. When built, Midway Rising will include one of the largest mixed-income and affordable housing projects in California. The project is also expected to generate roughly 21,900 temporary construction jobs and 3,100 permanent positions in entertainment, hospitality, and retail, and is subject to a project labor agreement with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council.

The path to permitting Midway Rising has not been smooth. The project is located within an area of San Diego that is subject to San Diego's Coastal Height Limit Overlay Zone, which generally limits building heights to 30 feet. In 2018, the City completed a program environmental impact report (PEIR) for the land use plans governing the area to enable development of the project. Because aspects of the project exceeded the 30-foot height limit, the City submitted a ballot measure to voters to raise the height limit for the project area in 2020. The City relied on the PEIR as the environmental analysis for the project. However, the Fourth District Court of Appeals invalidated that ballot measure because the PEIR did not consider potential environmental impacts of removing the height limit. While that appeal was pending, in 2022 the City prepared a supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) and approved a second ballot measure to remove the height limit from the same area. The Fourth District also invalidated the second ballot measure for similar reasons. The Court noted:

"The 2022 draft SEIR recognized removal of the Coastal Zone height limit was a changed circumstance from the 2018 PEIR. Yet, for almost every category of potential environmental impacts the initial study addressed, it said the PEIR adequately examined potential impacts because the project 'would be limited to the [Midway Rising] area footprint and land use, density, and zoning analyzed in the 2018 PEIR.'"[1]

The Court went on to identify a litany of impacts that could be related to building height that were not examined in the PEIR. The City of San Diego wants to streamline the CEQA process for the Midway Rising project.

Comments

[1] *Save Our Access v. City of San Diego*, 115 Cal. App. 5th 388

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "The Midway Rising Project will transform nearly 50 acres of underused, blighted City-owned land into a vibrant, modern district that directly addresses our region's housing shortage while delivering lasting economic and community benefits. It will deliver more than 4,000 homes, including 2,000 affordable and income-restricted, a state-of-the-art sports and entertainment venue, and more than 14 acres of parks and open space. SB 958 is a targeted, catalytic solution to move this transformational project forward after years of planning, extensive environmental review, and voter approval through two separate ballot measures. The bill upholds environmental accountability and is explicitly contingent on the certification and adoption of the final Environmental Impact Report already completed by the City of San Diego.

"Once completed, Midway Rising is projected to generate millions in local economic impact, create thousands of permanent jobs, support new businesses, utilize a highly-skilled and trained workforce, and produce long-term economic opportunities and tax revenue for the City and County of San Diego. Proposed to be the largest affordable housing project in the western United States, Midway Rising carries significant statewide importance and promise. At a time when California faces an urgent housing crisis, SB 958 advances a meaningful solution for San Diego and the state."

'What is Environmental Impacts' for 500 points. It is fair to consider that the environmental impacts for building a project 30 feet high could be different from the impacts of building one that is 130 or 165 feet tall. However, the court's ruling that the SEIR did not adequately consider those environmental effects related to building height include the following considerations:

a) How could tall buildings in and around the Midway-Pacific Highway area influence dispersal of predicted emissions or odors?
b) Will noise reflected or refracted from taller buildings disturb sensitive species in or adjacent to the Midway-Pacific Highway area?
c) Will light from rows of buildings near the San Diego River disturb the lunar cycles of sensitive wildlife?
d) Will numerous tall buildings cause increased runoff that will impact sensitive habitats?
e) Will changed topography, noise, and light from new building heights fragment and disrupt the recognized wildlife corridor along the San Diego River?

f) If man-made structures draw [peregrine falcons] (or others) to the area for nesting, will the project otherwise impact them?

While some queries on the impacts of building height on the environment, including aesthetics, shadow, wind, and reflection, are routinely considered in applicable cases, several of the considerations in this particular ruling are unique to say the least, and as such it's not clear how Midway Rising's SEIR would have anticipated and included these specific environmental impacts.

Courts have discretion in evaluating whether or not the lead agency adequately considered the environmental impacts of the project. However, the Legislature has the capability to overturn judicial rulings related to CEQA. Most prominently in recent years was the specification in AB 1307 (Wicks Chapter 160, Statutes of 2023) that for residential projects, the effects of noise generated by project occupants and their guests on human beings is not a significant effect on the environment.

SB 958 uses a similar approach to AB 1307 by course correcting a court ruling on what constitutes environmental impacts under CEQA—and applying it broadly to all future projects.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

None

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego
San Diego Councilmember Jennifer Campbell
Western States Regional Council of Carpenters

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Western Electrical Contractors Association
Peninsula Community Planning Board

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-5, 8/25/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle

Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas
NOES: Addis, Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Pellerin
NO VOTE RECORDED: Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Connolly, Garcia, Hart, Irwin, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Patel, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Sanchez, Zbur

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/26/26 14:50:23

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 959
Author: Grayson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 3/25/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Average daily attendance: emergencies: major safety hazard

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, an urgency measure, authorizes a local fire agency to determine the imminence of a major safety hazard for purposes of holding a local educational agency's (LEA's) average daily attendance (ADA) harmless for state funding purposes.

Assembly Amendments make technical and conforming changes to reflect amendments to the same section of law enacted through the 2026 education budget trailer bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes that LEAs are funded based on ADA and defines "material decrease" as a drop of at least 10% in attendance due to qualifying emergencies. (Education Code (EC) § 46392; California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 5 § 428)

2) Lists qualifying emergencies for ADA credit, including fire, flood, epidemic, earthquake, impassable roads, and other extraordinary conditions, including civil or military orders. (EC § 46392)

3) Allows LEAs to submit a Form J-13A to the California Department of Education (CDE) to request ADA and instructional time credit during an emergency or material attendance loss. (EC §§ 41422, 46200, 46391, 46392, 46393 and CCR, Title 5, § 428)

4) Requires LEAs to offer independent study during emergency closures or attendance disruptions to retain ADA credit, and includes audit requirements for substantiating compliance. (EC §§ 42238.023, 51745, 51747, 51749.6)

5) Requires future inclusion of instructional continuity plans in school safety plans, effective July 1, 2026. (SB 153, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 38, Statutes of 2024; AB 176 Assembly Committee on Budget, Chapter 998, Statutes of 2024)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a local fire agency to determine the imminence of a major safety hazard for purposes of holding an LEA's ADA harmless for state funding purposes.

2) Contains an urgency statute which would go into effect immediately.

Comments

1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, "California has experienced an unprecedented rise in the frequency and severity of wildfires as the state faces the new reality of a year-round fire season. Recent tragedies like the Eaton and Palisades Fires in Southern California along with the Dixie and LNU Lightning Complex Fires in Northern California have led to action on several fronts to apply lessons learned from these tragic events.

In response to recent devastating wildfires, the Legislature has acted to both rebuild affected communities and bolster mitigation efforts to lower future fire risk. However, more must be done to ensure that communities have every tool available to them to respond to fire danger appropriately.

One area where there remains a gap in current law is in the Education Code section that governs the type of emergency situations that a school may cancel classes and not lose out on ADA funding.

This update to the law will assure that school districts will not lose ADA funding if they err on the side of student and community safety in the face of an imminent wildfire. Including fire agencies in this vital decision-making process has the potential to save the lives of students, teachers, and school personnel by keeping them out of harm's way when their campuses are threatened by potential wildfires."

2) *Education law protects districts from losses in ADA due to emergency situations.* Two sections of the EC empower the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to grant regular apportionment credit to districts during emergencies. Under EC Section 41422, districts can maintain apportionments when schools close due to "extraordinary conditions." When the SPI approves credit for closed school days, districts receive ADA credit and instructional time credit for the time lost during the closure, satisfying state law requirements for both the minimum 175-day year and longer day and year standards.

   EC Section 46392 allows for ADA credit whenever the ADA of educational institutions decreases significantly due to various emergencies, including fires, floods, and impassable roads. Despite differences in wording between the two sections, their purpose remains the same: to protect school districts and county offices from revenue loss resulting from reduced ADA or instructional time during emergencies.

3) *Disaster preparedness in schools.* Under existing law, CDE is required to electronically distribute disaster preparedness educational materials and lesson plans that are currently available to school districts and county offices of education. The CDE must (1) ensure that the disaster preparedness materials are available in at least the three most dominant primary languages spoken by English learners in California, and (2) coordinate with the Office of Emergency Services to make sure that all materials are reviewed and updated annually. Among the materials circulated to LEAs are information about teaching

children proper use of 9-1-1, fire safety information, emergency preparedness, and curriculum-based programs on the emotional, social, and economic effects of natural and human-caused disasters.

Further, each school district and county office of education is responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans for its schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12. Charter schools must include in their petitions the procedures that the charter school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff.

4) *Allowing local fire agencies to determine the imminence of a major safety hazard.* Current law allows schools to cancel classes without financial penalty when there is an "imminence of a major safety hazard" as determined by a local law enforcement agency. However, in situations involving wildfire risk, local fire agencies are often the entities best positioned to assess conditions on the ground and determine whether a campus faces imminent danger. School administrators, law enforcement officials, and fire authorities have indicated that the existing statute does not clearly authorize fire agencies to make this determination, which may create uncertainty for districts seeking to close schools proactively out of an abundance of caution.

   Given the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires across California and the growing number of schools located in or near Fire Hazard Severity Zones, this bill seeks to align the statute with the practical realities of emergency response by allowing local fire agencies, who possess specialized expertise in wildfire behavior and risk assessment, to determine when an imminent safety hazard exists. Allowing these agencies to make such determinations may help ensure that schools can act quickly to protect students and staff without risking the loss of ADA funding.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) No General Fund administrative costs to the California Department of Education (CDE). According to the CDE, statute already empowers the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to consider threat of a major safety hazard as determined by a local fire agency when the SPI reviews a Form J-13A waiver request.

2) Minor and absorbable Proposition 98 General Fund costs to the extent more local educational agencies (LEAs) apply for a Form J-13A waiver as a result of making explicit in statute that the SPI may consider a major safety hazard determined by a local fire agency when reviewing such a waiver request. However, as noted above, existing law already authorizes the SPI to consider such an event when reviewing a waiver request.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Teachers Association
City of Lafayette
City of Oakland
City of Orinda
Contra Costa County
Lamorinda Legislative Coalition
League of California Cities
Legislative Action Committee - Santa Clara County School Boards Association
Orange County Fire Authority
Town of Moraga

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 15:01:09

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 965
Author: Blakespear (D), et al.
Amended: 6/22/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 35-0, 5/7/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello, Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-2, 8/13/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public libraries: library cards

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, (1) prohibits a public library from requiring that a parent or guardian be present for the issuance of a public library card to a California resident who is 16 or 17 years old and (2) permits a public library to require a parent's or guardian's consent or signature for the issuance of a library card to a California resident who is 16 or 17 years of age unless the minor is emancipated.

Assembly Amendments (1) add an implementation date of January 1, 2028 for the provisions of the bill and (2) permit a public library to require a parent's or guardian's consent or signature for the issuance of a library card to a California resident who is 16 or 17 years old unless the minor is emancipated.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Library Services Act for the purpose of ensuring that all people have free and convenient access to all library resources and services, regardless of where they live or of the tax base of their local government. (Education Code (EC) § 18700 and 18701)

2) Defines a jurisdiction as a county, city and county, city, or any district that is authorized by law to provide public library services and that operates a public library. (EC § 18710)

3) Defines a public library as a library, or two or more libraries, that serves its residents free of charge and that is operated by a single public jurisdiction. (EC § 18710)

4) Defines a school library as an organized collection of printed and audiovisual materials that makes these materials as well as necessary equipment and services of a staff accessible to elementary and secondary school pupils and teachers. (EC § 18710)

5) Defines a cooperative library system means a public library system that consists of two or more jurisdictions entering into a written agreement to implement a regional program under the Public Library Services Act and was designated a library system under the Public Library Services Act of 1963 or a successor to that library system. (EC § 18710)

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "there are nearly 1 million residents who are 16 and 17 years old who may be subject to in-person parental consent requirements to get a library card. … Library card policies for minors vary widely by jurisdiction across the state. … These different requirements, particularly those requiring a parent or guardian to be physically present, create inconsistent access to a public resource for older teens across the state. … Parental consent in-person requirements create practical barriers for teens whose parents or guardians may not have the time, availability, or flexibility to accompany them to a library. As a result, an otherwise responsible teenager may be prevented from accessing books, study materials, and employment resources."

The author continues, "This bill would establish a clear statewide standard in California allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to independently obtain and use a public library card. … [This bill] clarifies eligibility under existing systems while preserving local control over library operations and accountability for materials. Policies regarding lost or damaged items can be addressed through existing library policies. The bill maintains the requirement for a parent or guardian signature on the application while removing the need for in-person presence to get a library card."

Public libraries are run and funded primarily by local governments. As defined in statute, a public library (also known as a local public library or a local library) is a library, or two or more libraries, that serves its residents free of charge and that is operated by a single public jurisdiction, such as a county, city, special district, or a joint powers authority. Typically, the jurisdiction of the public library designates a central library to coordinate activities among all the library branches within a jurisdiction. Preliminary 2023-24 data from the Public Libraries Survey show that 187 jurisdictions, with 1,127 sites (including central libraries and their branches), are operating in California. With regard to funding, around 94% of local library funding comes from local governments, and the remaining 6% comes from the state and federal governments.

Other initiatives provided library cards for students, but they had limited statewide impact. Multiple national, regional, and local initiatives have sought to provide library cards for students. One notable prior initiative was called the Student Success Initiative, which was developed by the Pacific Library Partnership and NorthNet Library System in 2016 to create collaborative partnerships between public libraries and schools that provided library cards for students in California. By 2018-19, this project included 70 public libraries with partnerships with schools. Some of these partnerships focused on elementary school students, and others focused on high schools. Though library card policies vary based on the memorandum of understanding between the school district and the library, most of the partnerships included provisions where library cards would be automatically provided to students without the parents' signature, but an opt-out provision would be available for parents who did not want their child to participate. This program has since been folded into the Local Public Library Partnership Program created by SB 321 (Ashby, Chapter 598, Statutes of 2023).

Age-old debate on statewide uniformity and consistency vs. reducing local flexibility. Current law is silent on how 16- and 17-year-olds obtain public library cards, which provides flexibility and discretion for public libraries to determine

what is needed for youths under 18 to obtain a library card. Though some public libraries require that parents or guardians be present in person for a child's library card application, some public libraries simply require a signature from a parent or guardian, and some do not require a signature at all, so long as the applicant has proof of identification and residency. Public libraries also do not have a uniform requirement for the age threshold for which an in-person parent is needed, or if a signature is needed. These decisions are currently made locally.

For example, the Los Angeles County Library requires that children under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign their library card application, but doesn't need them to be in person; however, the Los Angeles County Library does require a parent or guardian to be present to fill out a form for a child under 18 to access the internet at the library. Within the same county is the South Pasadena Public Library, which requires a parent or legal guardian to be in person to sign a library card application for children under 18, with the adult needing to show valid identification with verification of current address.

Though this bill prohibits public libraries from requiring that parents or guardians be present for the issuance of a public library card to a California resident who is 16- or 17-years old, this bill includes language permitting a public library to require consent or signature from a parent or guardian for a library card for a California resident who is 16- or 17- years old unless the minor is emancipated. Opponents of this bill may object to removing the ability for public libraries to make local decisions on a parent's or guardian's in-person presence for the issuance of a library card.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 321 (Ashby, Chapter 598, Statutes of 2024) established the Local Public Library Partnership Program, under the administration of the State Librarian, to promote collaboration between public libraries and local educational agencies (LEAs) and to ensure that all pupils have access to a local public library by third grade. The bill reflects legislative intent to expand equitable access to library resources for students statewide and reduce barriers to library use through school-library partnerships.

SB 34 (Umberg, Chapter 297, Statutes of 2022) requires the California Department of Education—in an earlier version of this legislation—to administer a competitive grant program to award one-time grant funding to LEAs, library districts, and public libraries for the purpose of providing every public school student with a

student success card. SB 34 was subsequently amended to relate to public contracts.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Alliance for Children's Rights
Association of California County Boards of Education
Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Children Now
End Child Poverty California
Human Rights Watch
MAAC
Placer County Board of Education
The Grauer School

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Library Association

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Sanchez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Chen, Ellis, Macedo, Petrie-Norris, Schultz

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/20/26 13:58:57

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 969
Author: Reyes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

PRIOR SENAE VOTES NOT RELEVANT PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 29.10(d)

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 8/24/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Weights and measures: electric vehicle fueling systems

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill exempts specified factory-tested and certified electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) from field testing and placement-in-service requirements and establishes alternative inspection requirements for EVSE.

Assembly Amendments create a new bill to exempt specified factory-tested and certified EVSE from field testing and placement-in-service requirements and establishes alternative inspection requirements for EVSE.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) general enforcement supervision of the laws relating to weights and measures and measuring devices and provides for the enforcement of those laws and the

inspection and testing of measuring devices in each county by the county sealer. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 12100, 12105)

2) Makes it unlawful for any person, as specified, to use for commercial purposes any weight or measure or weighting, measuring, or counting instrument, knowing it to be "incorrect", as specified. (BPC § 12020)

3) Requires each county sealer to inspect, try and test all weights, scales, beams, measures of any kind, instruments or mechanical devices for weighing and measuring, and tools, appliances and accessories connected with any or all such instruments or measures, sold or used by any proprietor, agent, lessee or employee for commercial purposes, as defined. (BPC § 12210(a))

4) Defines "EVSE" or "electric vehicle supply equipment" to mean a device that is used in connection with the sale of electricity as a motor vehicle fuel for controlling the electricity supply from an electric vehicle charging station to a vehicle during a charging session that includes a measuring instrument. (BPC § 12509.5)

5) Defines "electric vehicle charger operated by a public agency" to mean an electric vehicle charger that is available for commercial use by the public and that is either owned by a public agency or for which the public agency has entered into an agreement to have the electric vehicle charger installed, maintained, or serviced, to have the revenues from the electric vehicle charger collected, or to otherwise have electric vehicle charging services performed on behalf of the public agency. (BPC § 12209.7(a)(2))

6) Establishes the CEC, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor and approved by members of the Senate, to carry out various responsibilities, including but not limited to: serving as a central repository within the state government for the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of data and information on all forms of energy supply, demand, conservation, public safety, research, and related subjects; undertaking a continuing assessment of trends in the consumption of electrical energy and other forms of energy and analyze the social, economic, and environmental consequences of these trends and; carrying out energy conservation measures, as specified. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 25200, 25216, 25216.5)

This bill:

1) Requires the Secretary of CDFA, in consultation with CEC, to update EVSE regulations by July 1, 2028, including regulations authorizing a risk-based statistical sampling inspection frequency for EVSE.

2) Requires the operator of an exempt EVSE to register the installation with the county sealer within 72 hours; requires sealers to report EVSE inspection data monthly to the Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) within CDFA and; requires DMS to provide that data to the CEC no less than twice per year.

3) Establishes conditions under which a sealer must, or may, take an EVSE out of service, and requires that metrologically relevant repairs be performed only by a service agency or service agent.

Background

California's Ambitious Zero-Emission Vehicle Targets and Challenges with Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Installations for Operation and Oversight. The CEC released a press release in January of this year announcing that California has surpassed 2.5 million zero emission vehicle (ZEV) sales. The media release noted that since the end of 2019, cumulative new ZEV sales in California have grown 300%. In September of 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-79-20, which established goals for the State of California that 100% of in-state new passenger car and truck sales will be zero-emission by 2035, and by 2045, ZEV operations for medium-and heavy-duty vehicles, where feasible. Preceding that Executive Order, former Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-48-18 which set a target for 5 million electric vehicles by 2030 and further directed California to install 250,000 electric vehicle chargers, including 10,000 direct current fast chargers by 2025.

The CEC released its first *Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment* report in 2021, and a revised report in 2023 with updated figures, analysis, and projections. The revised 2023 assessment projects that California's 7.1 million light duty plug-in electric passenger vehicles will need 1.01 million chargers, including 39,000 direct-current fast chargers. By 2035, 15.2 million light-duty plug-in electric passenger vehicles will need 2.11 million chargers in California including 83,000 direct-current fast chargers.

According to a CEC press release in September 2025, California has surpassed 200,000 publicly available and shared electric vehicle charging ports in California, resulting in 68% more EV charger ports than the number of gasoline nozzles

statewide. However, that figure is below the 250,000-charger goal set by then Governor Brown in Executive Order B-48-18. Publicly accessible charging stations can be found at places such as grocery store parking lots, apartment complexes, grocery stores, and even health care offices. Because electrical vehicle supply equipment devices are used to measure electricity sold as motor vehicle fuel, they are subject to the regulation under the weights and measures laws of the state.

California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Division of Measurement Standards. The DMS under the CDFA is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of California's weights and measures laws. When consumers purchase gasoline from a gas pump, or vegetables by weight at the supermarket, the regulation of those weighing devices used in commerce is to ensure that the price paid is correct for the amount of the product purchased. Consumers rely on the accuracy of a grocery scale to ensure they are paying the accurate price for the pound of apples they intend to purchase. A weighing or measurement device that is not operating correctly can result in overpayment by consumers, or consumers receiving less quantity for which they paid. This can include the electricity that one purchases to electrically refuel an electric vehicle.

County Sealers. Enforcement of the weights and measure standards in California, are delegated to a county sealer of weights and measures. County weights and measures officials inspect and test packaged commodities and all commercially used devices. Current law authorizes a county board of supervisors, through an ordinance, to charge an annual registration fee to recover the costs associated with inspecting or testing the weighing or measuring devices. With respect to electrical vehicle charging equipment, fees are not specified for those devices and so they fall into the $26 authorized fee range. In addition to the per device fees, current law permits counties to assess a fee for each location where the device is at to be charged a location registration fee, which is also specified and capped in statute.

CDFA is required to adopt necessary regulations governing the inspection frequency of all the commercially used weights, measures, and weighing apparatus in the state, which includes EVSE. As noted by the DMS, "The EVSE regulation aids consumers by facilitating an "apple-to-apple" price comparison of electricity sold at different locations. Uniform requirements for price advertising and EVSE labeling helps eliminate inconsistent, misleading, or fraudulent business practices by retailers." As these charging stations were coming to market, there was a step approach to the regulation of EVSE. For those products installed prior to January 1, 2021, they are exempt from DMS/sealer oversight until 2031, and anything installed after January 1, 2021 is subject to current compliance requirements.

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and Relationship to the Regulation of Weighing and Measuring Devices. EVSEs that transfer electricity to a vehicle (as a retail motor vehicle fuel) and charge for those services are considered a commercial measuring device, which brings them under the jurisdiction of the DMS and the enforcement and inspection of the county sealer programs.

Proponents of efforts contained in this bill cite concerns with the regulatory structure for oversight of the electric vehicle supply equipment being subject to current standards for all other commercial weighing devices in California. Stakeholders across the EV ecosystem, including manufacturers, installers, site hosts, and local governments, report that the DMS system is difficult to implement, unevenly enforced, and not equipped to scale with the state's rapidly growing charging infrastructure needs…Counties vary widely in their level of enforcement and capacity, with some not registering or inspecting chargers at all, leading to inconsistency and uncertainty across the state. These challenges are compounded by a limited number of Registered Service Agencies (RSAs) authorized to test and certify charging stations, resulting in long wait times and high costs for operators to bring chargers online. As a result, proponents of efforts like those contained in this bill believe that the current system is hindering the timely installation of reliable charging infrastructure, affecting both industry growth and consumer confidence.

County Sealers and Registered Service Agencies (RSAs) and the Role of RSAs in Weights and Measure Regulations. As a part of the oversight of weighing devices, there is a RSA program under the jurisdiction of the CDFA which is responsible for registering service agencies and their employees. RSAs are in greater numbers than county sealers and can utilize their numbers to more swiftly inspect and verify weighing devices. However, the cost of testing devices necessary to test electric vehicle supply equipment remains an impediment for both county sealers and RSA agents to conduct initial testing of electric vehicle charging stations, especially at the initial point of entry into the market. It is reported that the testing equipment costs approximately $50,000-$100,000, which can be a barrier to entry for many RSAs. EVSEs are unique in the need for initial inspection and testing, given how quickly these stations are being installed and how many are needed.

California Energy Commission and Transitioning Oversight of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment from Division of Measurement Standards and the County Sealers to CEC. In response to concerns with EVSE reliability, AB 2061 (Ting, Chapter 345, Statutes of 2022) required the CEC to define uptime for EV chargers, set uptime recordkeeping and reporting requirements and assess EV uptime every two years. At the same time the CEC is tasked with ensuring a robust electrical

vehicle supply market which includes increasing the availability of chargers across the state, this bill proposes to also require the CEC to oversee and regulate the private business operations of both ESVE manufacturers and equipment operators.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the bill will result in costs of an unknown amount, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for a limited period, to CDFA for DMS to adopt regulations governing EVSE inspection frequency by July 1, 2028, develop the risk-based statistical sampling methodology, receive and process monthly inspection data from county sealers, and compile and transmit data to the CEC no less than biannually. Ongoing data collection and reporting workload is likely minor and absorbable within existing resources. The bill will also result in costs to the CEC for one air pollution specialist position at $191,000 annually and ongoing and costs of an unknown amount, likely minor, to county sealers to receive placed-in-service reports, submit monthly EVSE inspection data to DMS, and administer the notice-and-cure process before taking an EVSE out of service.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Electric Transportation Coalition
California Retailers Association
Chargepoint, INC
Electric Era Technologies, INC
Electric Vehicle Charging Association
Electrify America, LLC
General Motors
GreenLatinos
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nema
Plug in America
Powerflex
Powering America's Commercial Transportation
Tesla
Trout Electric
Sierra Club California
Xeal

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A broad coalition of supporters note that this bill provides a framework for EV chargers to be placed into service more efficiently without duplicative testing.

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/26/26 19:11:53

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 971
Author: Choi (R), et al.
Amended: 8/5/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 3/25/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Becker, Niello, Laird, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/17/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program

SOURCE: California Senior Legislature

DIGEST: This bill permits local health departments, area on aging, community college, public or private college, public or private university, or other appropriate county department to establish a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program for older individuals designed to promote health aging, social engagement, and independent living in collaboration with relevant local entities. Specifies that the program does not duplicate or supplant current adult education courses, classes,

and services provided by the California Community Colleges, including through the Adult Education Program.

Assembly Amendments of 8/5/26:

1) Add community colleges and public or private colleges or universities to the list of entities authorized to establish a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program for older individuals;

2) Strike local school districts from the list of entities authorized to establish a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program for older individuals;

3) Align the definition of older adult that of WIC §9018; and,

4) Specifiy that a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program does not duplicate or supplant current adult education courses, classes, and services provided by the California Community Colleges, including through the Adult Education Program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires each county board of supervisors to appoint a local health officer (LHO). Requires LHOs to enforce and observe orders of the board pertaining to public health and sanitary matters, including regulations prescribed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and statutes related to public health. [Health & Safety Code (HSC) §101000 and 101030]

2) Establishes the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act and sets forth the state's commitment to older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers served by the programs administered by the California Department of Aging (CDA). [Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) §9000]

3) Defines "older individual" or "elderly" as a person 60 years of age or older, except where this provision is inconsistent with federal requirements. [WIC §9018]

4) Defines "area agency on aging" (AAA) as a private nonprofit or public agency designated by CDA that works for the interests of Older Californians within a planning and service area, and engages in community planning, coordination, and program development, and, through contractual arrangements, provides a broad array of social and nutritional services. [WIC §9006]

5) Recognizes AAAs as the local units on aging in California that are supported from an array of sources, including federal funding largely through the Older Americans Act, state and local government assistance, the private sector, and individual contributions for services. [WIC §9400]

6) Establishes an older adult wellness program within CDA. Requires the program to have all the following functions:
   a) Focus on educating California's older adults, as well as caregivers, families, and health care professions, about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, including, but not limited to, nutrition, exercise, injury prevention, and mental well-being;
   b) Provide information on, and help California's culturally and ethnically diverse older adults and adults with functional impairments;
   c) Provide educational information on the resources and services available for older adults from both private and public entities in communities throughout the state and the AAA;
   d) Promote education and training for professionals and caregivers who work directly with older adults to maximize wellness;
   e) Generate a cultural shift to a more positive vision and expectation with respect to how aging is viewed by all Californians;
   f) Transform perceptions of aging into a more hopeful, appreciative, and aspiring mode of being;
   g) Create a new culture that cherishes each of us;
   h) Advance the recognition of the unique status, experience, capacity, and role of older adults to become our models for guidance and inspiration;
   i) Replace the image of older adults who are "self-interested" with an image of older adults who are actively engaged and involved in their communities;
   j) Promote and mobilize older adults and adults with disabilities into emerging roles for the public benefit;
   k) Challenge the prevailing culture, to the extent that it discounts the value of age; and,
   l) Rid our culture of the negative attitudes towards adults who are aging and adults with disabilities. [WIC §9660-9661]

7) Requires the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), in coordination with the Director of CDA, to lead the development and implementation of the state's master plan for aging (MPA). [WIC §9850]

This bill:

1) Permits a local health department, area agency on aging, community college, public or private college, public or private university, or other appropriate county department, as determined by the county, to establish a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program to provide community-based programs for older individuals designed to promote healthy aging, social engagement, and independent living in collaboration with relevant local entities, including school districts, libraries, faith institutions, and community organizations.

2) Permits a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program, if a local entity establishes one, to include, but not be limited to: technology assistance, physical activity, music or arts programming, cultural programming, language learning opportunities, shared meals, and other community-based enrichment activities that support healthy aging and social connection.

3) Defines "older individual" as a person 60 years of age or older, except where this provision is inconsistent with federal requirements.

4) Prohibits requiring any local entity or department to implement a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program.

5) Requires the implementation of a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program to be subject to the availability of local resources and partnerships.

6) Specifies that a Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program does not duplicate or supplant current adult education courses, classes, and services provided by the California Community Colleges, including through the Adult Education Program.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> California's older adult population is growing rapidly, yet there is no designated public system responsible for coordinating education and prevention services tailored to older adults' real-life needs. This bill will establish a statutory framework authorizing counties to deliver older adult education and technology training through local public health systems, in partnership with community-based organizations and local school districts, to improve health, independence, and quality of life for Californians aged 55 and over.

Older Americans Act. The Administration of Community Living (ACL) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that Congress passed the

Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The original OAA established authority for grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging. The OAA also established the Administration of Aging to administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the federal focal point on matters concerning older persons.

Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act. The Older Californians Act of 1980 designated CDA as the single state agency responsible for administering the OAA; and defined the duties and functions of CDA as well as the state's 33 AAAs. The Older Californians Act was later amended by the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, AB 2800 (Granlund, Chapter 1097, Statutes of 1996), which also expanded upon the original act by establishing new programs and making structural changes to service delivery. The Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act sets forth California's commitment to older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers served by the programs administered by CDA.

CDA. According to CDA's website, the CDA operates under the umbrella of CalHHS and administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities. These programs receive funding through the federal OAA, the Older Californians Act, and through the Medi-Cal Program. CDA contracts with the network of 33 AAAs. The ACL website defines an AAA as a public or private nonprofit agency designated by a state to address the needs and concerns of all older persons at the regional and local levels. AAAs are primarily responsible for a dedicated geographic area, also known as a planning and service area that is either a city, a single county, or a multi-county district. AAAs coordinate and offer a wide array of federal and state-funded community-based services that aim to assist older adults as well as younger adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible, promote healthy aging and community involvement, and support family members in their vital care giving role. Some of these services include, but are not limited to: in-home support services, transportation, health and wellness programs, benefits counseling, and home-delivered and congregate meals.

CDA also contracts with 38 agencies that operate the Multipurpose Senior Services Program through the Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the elderly and certifies approximately 242 Adult Day Health Care Centers for participation in its Medi-Cal Community Based Adult Services Program. CDA actively collaborates with many other State departments, among other entities, on transportation, housing and accessibility, emergency preparedness and response,

wellness and nutrition, falls and injury prevention, improving services to persons with dementia, reducing fraud and abuse, and many other issues. Currently, CDA administers the following programs: AAA; Aging and Disability Resource Connection; California Caregiver Awareness, Resources, Education & Support Program; Growing a Resilient and Outstanding Workforce; CalFresh Outreach Program; CalFresh Healthy Living; Community-Based Adult Services; Caregiver Resource Centers; Dignity At Home Fall Prevention Program; Bridging the Digital Divide; Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program; Legal Services; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Multipurpose Senior Services Program; the Office of Long-Term Care Patient Representative; and Senior Community Service Employment Program.

MPA. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-14-19 in response to the increase of the aging population in California. The executive order, known as the MPA, calls for a comprehensive plan to address and prepare the state's aging population. MPA is a 10 year blueprint for state and local governments, the private sector, and philanthropy that prioritizes preparing the state for the demographic changes and continuing California's leadership in aging, disability, and equity. MPA outlines five goals: (1) Housing for All Ages and Stages; (2) Health Reimagined; (3) Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation; (4) Caregiving that Works; and (5) Affording Aging.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

This bill is keyed non-fiscal.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/17/26)

California Senior Legislature (source)
AARP
Alzheimer's Association
California Association for Adult Day Services
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association
California Federation of Teachers
California PACE Association
County of Los Angeles
LeadingAge California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/17/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The sponsor of this bill, the California Senior Legislature (CSL), writes that too many seniors face barriers to essential information, social connection, and preventive health education. CSL, among other supporting organizations, state that this bill offers a community-based approach by allowing local health departments to partner with trusted local entities to deliver programs tailored to older adults' needs. They believe that this bill will strengthen local capacity to serve older adults, improve health outcomes, and foster greater community connection. The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) adds that older adult education was historically supported through Adult Education programs prior to the Great Recession, but statutory and funding changes eliminated older adult-specific education classes. As a result, many older adults now face social isolation, digital exclusion, difficulty accessing healthcare and benefits, increased vulnerability to fraud, and preventable declines in physical function. CFT states that this bill will restore older adult education as a recognized public function and reframe it as preventative public health infrastructure rather than an unfunded afterthought. CFT furthers that the framework outlined in this bill avoids creating new bureaucracy while directly supporting the goals of California's MPA. Additionally, the Alzheimer's Association states that this bill enhances care and support in the community for older adults generally, which can particularly benefit those living with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. The programs permitted in this bill could help this vulnerable population adapt to remote caregiving with the use of new technology, navigate care, prevent falls, prepare for emergency evacuations, and support their emotional wellbeing. The Alzheimer's Association also writes that this bill supports communities invested in health aging deliver meals and educational programs that have the potential to improve outcomes for older adults, and also have the capability to address the unique challenges for those with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Click or tap here to enter text.

Prepared by: Margarita Niemann / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/17/26 15:36:19

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 973
Author: Becker (D) and Stern (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Pérez, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Wildfire County Coordinator Program

SOURCE: California Fire Safe Council
Megafire Action

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department) to establish the California Wildfire Preparedness Program and enter

into an agreement with the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) to administer and deliver the Wildfire County Coordinator Program.

Assembly Amendments establish the Wildfire Preparedness Program, provide greater clarity towards its authorities, and make technical and editorial changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department (Public Resources Code (PRC) §701).
2) Establishes the Task Force (PRC §4005).
3) Requires the Task Force to update the Action Plan every five years, beginning March 1, 2026 (PRC §4771(f)).
4) Requires the implementation strategy include specific actions:
   a) Increasing the pace and scale of wildfire and forest resilience activities (PRC §4771(c)(1));
   b) Strengthening the protection of communities and reducing their fire risk (PRC §4771(c)(2));
   c) Creating a sustainable wood products market in California (PRC §4771(c)(3);
   d) Sustaining and expanding outdoor recreation on forestland (PRC §4771(c)(4));
   e) Protecting and expanding urban canopy and forestry (PRC §4771(c)(5)); and
   f) Driving innovation and measuring progress in achieving the above goals (PRC §4771(c)(6).

This bill:

1) Requires the Department to establish the California Wildfire Preparedness Program to
   a) Establish recommended standards for wildfire risk modeling and analysis tools;
   b) Develop guidance and tools to support county-level wildfire risk assessments; the identification of high-risk communities; prioritization of mitigation activities; and evaluation of risk reduction outcomes;
   c) Coordinate with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to develop guidance and templates for county-level wildfire resilience prioritization and implementation plans.

2) Establishes the Wildfire County Coordinator Program within the Department, and requires the Department to enter into an agreement with CFSC to administer the program.
   a) Establishes the purpose of the program as to support county-level coordination of and capacity for wildfire mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and recovery activities.

3) Requires the Wildfire County Coordinator Program to:
   a) Establish capacity in participating counties to plan and execute community- and county-level wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and recovery activities in support of the Action Plan.
   b) Support the use of risk assessment tools and guidance to enhance county-level risk assessment, wildfire planning, and project prioritization.
   c) Facilitate local coordination on priority wildfire resilience planning and implementation with federal, state, tribal, local, and regional wildfire resilience partners.
   d) Facilitate coordination between county-level community wildfire preparedness efforts, regional landscape resilience efforts, and other applicable federal, state, tribal, and local planning efforts to improve information sharing, identify shared implementation opportunities, and strengthen alignment across jurisdictions and planning scales.
   e) Develop and disseminate educational materials and programming on wildfire and smoke mitigation and preparedness.
   f) Provide information on available local, state, and federal financial resources to support wildfire resilience planning and implementation.
   g) Support local capacity to access and implement state or federal wildfire resilience funding programs.
   h) Support the planning and implementation of home hardening, defensible space, and related mitigation activities.
   i) Improve access to and streamline financial assistance for home hardening and defensible space in high-risk communities.
   j) Support activities to increase community resilience to smoke.
   k) Collect data on local mitigation and preparedness activities, outcomes, and costs.

Comments

Wildfire County Coordinator Program (County Coordinators). Established in 2021, the Wildfire County Coordinator Program seeks to educate, encourage, and develop countywide community collaboration and coordination among wildfire

mitigation groups. The program, powered by a partnership between the CFSC and the Department, has provided funding to 52 of California's 58 counties to hire a Wildfire County Coordinator and establish critical local capacity to plan and implement wildfire resilience strategies on the ground.

Codifying success. According to the author's office, since 2021, the County Coordinator program has achieved the following results:

- Secured over $104 million for local mitigation and preparedness projects,
- Reached nearly 1 million residents with wildfire resilience education,
- Established 100+ new Firewise Communities and Fire Safe Councils, and
- Built a durable, statewide network to advance coordinated mitigation efforts.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, on a previous version of the bill:

- The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) estimates one-time costs of $870,000 spread over two years for two limited-term positions to develop the wildfire resilience guidance, templates, and implementation guidance as required by the bill.
- Unknown but potentially significant ongoing costs (General Fund) for CalFire to implement the provisions of this bill.
- Unknown but potentially significant ongoing cost pressures (General Fund and other funds) to continue providing funding for home hardening certification and the WCC Program after 2027.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Fire Safe Council (co-sponsor)
Megafire Action (co-sponsor)
Butte County Fire Safe Council
California Building Industry Association
California Forward
California State Association of Counties
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Colusa County Resource Conservation District
Community Wildfire Planning Center
County of Kern
County of Mendocino
County of Mono
County of Monterey
County of Nevada
County of Sacramento

County of San Luis Obispo
County of Trinity
Escondido Fire Safe Council
Fire Safe Council of San Diego County
Fire Safe Marin
Firewerx
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Irvine Ranch Conservancy
Lamorinda Legislative Coalition
Lassen Fire Safe Council
Mattole Restoration Council
Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Modoc Fire Safe Council
Monterey; County of
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council
Orange County Fire Authority
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council
Resource Conservation District of Tehama County
Rural County Representatives of California
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento; County of
Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Santa Clara County Firesafe Council
Sierra Business Council
Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
Sunnyslope Firewise Committee
The Nature Conservancy
Town of Mammoth Lakes
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Tulare County Board of Supervisors
United Policyholders
Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council
Yolo County Resource Conservation District

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "SB 973 establishes a statewide framework to strengthen community wildfire resilience by directing [the Department] to develop guidance and recommended standards for local entities assessing wildfire risk and prioritizing wildfire mitigation activities, and to expand the Wildfire County Coordinator Program, administered in partnership with the California Fire Safe Council. The program builds county-level capacity to plan, coordinate, and implement wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and recovery activities aligned with state wildfire strategy."

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/24/26 16:56:54

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 974
Author: Seyarto (R)
Amended: 6/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/8/26
AYES: McNerney, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Becker, Grayson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 4/23/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Reyes, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Property taxation: change in ownership: generational transfers: special needs trusts

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill modifies the definition of "transfer" in statute implementing Proposition 19 to explicitly state that other forms of trusts can qualify for the exclusion, specifically Special Needs Trusts.

Assembly Amendments restate the measure's change, add a reference for its definition of "special needs trust," and refine a cross reference.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that all property is taxable unless explicitly exempted by the Constitution or federal law (California Constitution, Article XIII, Section One).

2) Limits the maximum amount of any *ad valorem* tax on real property at 1% of full cash value, plus any locally-authorized bonded indebtedness, and caps a property's annual inflationary increase in taxable value to 2%. Provides that assessors reappraise property whenever it is purchased, newly constructed, or when ownership changes (California Constitution, Article XIIIA, as added by Proposition 13, 1978).

3) Defines "change in ownership" as "a transfer of a present interest in real property, including the beneficial use thereof, the value of which is substantially equal to the value of the fee interest."

4) Enacts change in ownership exclusions for transfers of property from one generation to the next, specifically:

   a) Transfers of property from parents to children (Proposition 58, 1986).

   b) Transfers of property to grandchildren, so long as the parents are deceased (Proposition 193, 1996).

5) Enacts the Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act, which limits the above exclusions solely to the transfer of a principal residence when the property continues as the primary residence of the transferee, and requires the transferee to claim the homeowner's exemption from property tax at the time of transfer or within one year to apply the exclusion (Proposition 19, 2020).

6) Implements Proposition 19 to set forth definitions, requirements, limitations, and procedures for claiming a change in ownership exclusion for transfers of property from one generation to the next, based on similar statutes implementing Propositions 58 and 193 (SB 539, Hertzberg, Chapter 427, Statutes of 2021).

7) Defines "transfer" to include a transfer through the medium of an *inter vivos* or testamentary trust to ensure that these transfers are eligible for Prop. 19 intergenerational transfer exclusions.

8) Extends the current deadline for taxpayers to retroactively apply a Proposition 58, 193, or 19 intergenerational transfer from six months to three years under specified circumstances resulting from the 2025 Los Angeles Fires (SB 293, Perez, Chapter 539, Statutes of 2025).

This bill:

1) States that a Special Needs Trust (SNT) is considered to be an eligible means of transfer for purposes of a Proposition 19 transfer.

2) Defines "Special Needs Trust" by reference to the Probate Code.

3) Changes a reference in SB 293 to more accurately refer to specified disasters.

Background

Often used to transfer property from one generation to the next, trusts are specific legal agreements to hold and administer property, in which a trustee manages property on behalf of others. Trusts allow grantors to pass assets to future generations while avoiding lengthy and costly probate proceedings. Trusts must identify:

- The creator of the trust, known as the trustor or grantor.
- The manager of the trust, known as a trustee or fiduciary.
- The beneficiary or beneficiaries who will receive property from the trust.
- The property the trust manages.

A Special Needs Trust is a trust that allows disabled persons to maintain their eligibility for public assistance benefits, despite having assets that would otherwise make the person ineligible for those benefits, specifically Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. Because the beneficiary does not own the trust assets, they remain eligible for benefit programs that apply asset limits.

For the most part, a trustor transferring property to a trust is treated as a change in ownership at the time of transfer, triggering a reassessment of the property held by the trust, with several exceptions. According to Board of Equalization (BOE) Rule 462.010, the transfer of real property by a trustor to a trust in which the trustor-transferor is the sole present beneficiary of the trust is not a change in ownership, but generally becomes one when persons other than the trustor-transferor are or become present beneficiaries of the trust. BOE guidance states that assessors can look through a trust to its beneficial owners to determine whether an exclusion applies, such as a Prop. 19 intergenerational transfer, so long as the trustee or trustor submits a timely exclusion claim. While SB 539 includes trusts in its definition of "transfer" it did not explicitly include SNTs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- No property tax revenue loss, as the State Board of Equalization (BOE) notes this bill clarifies a special needs trust is an eligible medium of transfer under existing law.

- Costs of approximately $15,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27, $5,000 in FY 2027-28, and $2,000 in FY 2028-29 to the BOE to update and provide related guidance.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Assessor – County Clerk – Recorder
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area
California State Board of Equalization
California Taxpayers Association
City of Temecula
County of Riverside
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
Parents Helping Parents
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "SB-974 provides important clarification to Proposition 19 by ensuring that Special Needs Trusts are recognized as meeting eligibility requirements for property tax protections. This will ensure that families planning for the long-term care of a severely disabled loved one are not unfairly penalized with property tax reassessment."

Prepared by: Colin Grinnell / REV. & TAX. / (916) 651-4117, Haley Summers / REV. & TAX. / (916) 651-4117
8/24/26 17:12:47

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 983
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Amended: 8/12/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 4/29/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Choi, Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 29-8, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: San Diego Unified Port District: job order contracting: pilot program

SOURCE: San Diego Unified Port District

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the San Diego Port District to use the Job Order Contracting (JOC) method.

Assembly Amendments

1) Excludes district maritime and longshore operations from JOC,

2) Prohibits JOC being awarded for any new construction,

3) Prohibits contract for work that is protected by any collective bargaining agreements or memoranda of understanding,

4) Provides a job order contractor and subcontractor at every tier must comply with district's project labor agreements, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, via the Local Agency Public Construction Act, local agencies to invite bids for construction projects and award contracts to the lowest responsible bidder,

2) Establishes the San Diego Unified Port District for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, development, and regulation of harbor works and improvements for the harbor of San Diego and for the promotion of commerce, navigation, fisheries, and recreation,

3) Requires the San Diego Unified Port District to comply with the specific public contracting requirements for port districts,

4) Authorize multiple agencies to use JOC, some state and some local, including counties, school districts, community college districts, the California State University system, and Caltrans.

This bill:

1) Allows, until January 1, 2037, the Port District to use JOC procurement authority,

2) To use this authority, the Port District must:

   a) Not contract for work that is protected by any collective bargaining agreements or memoranda of understanding;

   b) Comply with all collective bargaining agreements or memoranda of understanding; and

   c) Competitively bid and award to bidders providing qualified responsible bids.

3) Limits JOC to repair, remodeling, or other repetitive work according to unit prices while prohibiting the use of JOC for district maritime and longshore operations.

4) No annual contracts may be awarded for any new construction.

5) Requires solicitations for a JOC must comply with the following requirements:

   a) The Port District must prepare a set of solicitation documents for JOC. Documents must include a unit price catalog or other established unit prices;

   b) An architect, engineer, consultant, or contractor retained by the district to assist in the development of the JOC solicitation documents must not be eligible to bid or participate in the preparation of the JOC bid; and

   c) The Port District may award multiple JOCs in response to a single JOC solicitation.

6) Requires Port District to develop a system for evaluating and awarding JOC bids:

   a) Port District must prepare a request for bids for JOC based on the solicitation documents and request sealed bids;

   b) Each bidder must include in its bid one or more adjustment factors to the established unit prices;

   c) Each bidder shall agree to identify any subcontractors to be used;

   d) Port district must award the JOC, if any, to a bidder that the district determines is qualified and responsive;

   e) A job order contractor and subcontractor at every tier must comply with the district's project labor agreements, as applicable; and

   f) Port District may award any job order for repair or renovation work with a value equal to or less than $250,000 to a job order contractor that is also a certified small business enterprise.

7) Provides that the maximum total dollar amount that may be awarded under a single JOC shall not exceed $5 million dollars in the initial contract term of the JOC. No single job order may exceed $1 million,

8) Provides that JOCs may be executed for an initial contract term of no more than 12 months and may be extended or renewed for two subsequent annual terms and a maximum of $10 million over the subsequent two terms of the contract,

9) Prohibits work from being split or separated into smaller job orders for the purpose of evading the cost limitation provisions of this bill,

    a) Except that district may award phased job orders when necessary to comply with environmental regulations, permitting requirements, tidal or seasonal construction windows, or other operational constraints.

10) Allows the amounts in the bill to be adjusted annually to reflect the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI),

11) Provides that all work bid under JOCs shall comply with the Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act and is subject to all of the penalties and provisions set forth in that Act,

12) Requires, if a job order contractor chooses to use a subcontractor, the job order contractor to verify that the subcontractor possesses and maintains the appropriate licenses and credentials required,

13) Provides that, if the Port District, after conducting an administrative due process review, determines that there has been a violation of the Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act, including, but not limited to, bid shopping by the job order contractor, the Port District may terminate the job order contract, declare the contractor ineligible for future job order contracts for a period of time to be determined by the Port District, or withdraw authorization for the contractor to proceed with awarded work,

14) Requires a JOC to set forth in the general conditions of the JOC the party or parties responsible for seeing that existing law governing prevailing wages on public works projects is complied with, as specified.

15) Requires, for purposes of job order contracting, prevailing wages to apply to all work ordered under the JOC regardless of thresholds set forth in existing law governing prevailing wages on public works projects, as specified.

16) Requires the Port District to designate one individual to act as a monitor to inspect job sites for labor compliance violations at the request of the

designated labor representative in its project labor agreement,

17) Requires a JOC to be subject to a project labor agreement (PLA) between the district and the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council,

18) Requires, in order to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, the Port District must prepare for each individual job order developed under a JOC an independent cost estimate. The estimate shall be prepared prior to the receipt of any job order contractor's estimate for the work and shall be compared to the job order contractor's estimate to determine the reasonableness of that estimate before issuance of any job order. If the Port District finds the job order contractor's estimate to perform work for a given job order to be unreasonable, not cost effective, or undesirable, the Port District may elect not to issue the job order to the job order contractor, and may, instead, utilize any other available procurement procedures or choose not to move forward with the work,

19) Requires the Port District to submit to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2035, a report on the use of JOC. The report must include:

    a) A description of the Port District's system for evaluating JOC bids for award of JOCs, including, but not limited to, the criteria used by the Port District to determine a qualified and responsive job order contractor;

    b) A description of each JOC the Port District awarded, and the contractor awarded the contract; and

    c) An assessment of the use of job order contracting under this bill.

Background

Job order contracting (JOC). A JOC is a competitively bid, fixed price, indefinite quantity contract for the performance of minor construction, as well as the renovation, alteration, painting and repair of existing public facilities. A JOC is generally a multi-year contract that includes a base year and multiple "option years," and is awarded before the awarding agency has identified specific work that it needs the contractor to perform. Instead of bidding each project separately, the agency awards a JOC that identifies specific tasks and covers a range of recurring work, such as roofing, electrical work, plumbing, and painting, across facilities it owns.

A JOC is a fixed price agreement in that it is based upon specified charges contained in a Unit Price Book (UPB), which is prepared by the public agency or by independent commercial sources. The UPB sets forth detailed repair and construction tasks, including task descriptions, specifications, units of measurement, and unit prices for each task ("Unit Price" means the amount paid for a single unit of an item of work). This contracting method is intended to reduce costs and accelerate completion of smaller projects.

The Legislature has authorized multiple agencies to use JOC, some state and some local, including counties, school districts, community college districts, the California State University system, and Caltrans. California counties have had the authority to use JOC since 1983.

San Diego Unified Port District. The San Diego Unified Port District (Port District) was created by the Legislature to manage San Diego Bay and surrounding waterfront land on December 18, 1962. The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest of the 11 ports in California. The Port District includes five member cities – San Diego, Chula Vista, Coronado, National City, and Imperial Beach. The Port District currently oversees two maritime cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, 23 public parks, the Harbor Police Department and the leases of hundreds of tenant and subtenant businesses around San Diego Bay.

Existing law establishes the Port District as the trustee of public lands within San Diego Bay. The Port District was created for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, development and regulation of harbor works and improvements, including rail and water, for the development, operation, maintenance, control, regulation, and management of the harbor of San Diego upon the tidelands and lands lying under the inland navigable waters of San Diego Bay, and for the promotion of commerce, navigation, fisheries, and recreation. A seven-member Board of Port Commissioners governs the Port District: one commissioner each is appointed by the city councils of Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach and National City, and three commissioners are appointed by the San Diego City Council.

Comments

According to the author, "SB 983 authorizes the Port of San Diego to utilize job-order-contracting ("JOC") for their repair, remodeling, and repetitive work. The ability to utilize this contracting method will promote efficiency and flexibility in completing necessary maintenance projects.

Currently, when maintenance is needed on the Port's property, the Port must go out for competitive bidding for each individual project. This can result in major delays and can interrupt Port operations. This bill establishes a pilot program allowing the Port of San Diego to use the JOC procurement method, and sunsets the program in January 2037."

Special legislation. Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution prohibits special legislation when a general law can apply. SB 983 contains findings and declarations explaining the need for legislation that applies only to the Port of San Diego because of the unique and special circumstances surrounding the port.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

San Diego Unified Port District (Sponsor)
Associated General Contractors-San Diego Chapter
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
The Gordian Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

Western Electrical Contractors Association

Prepared by: Itzel Vargas / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/26/26 14:28:40

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 989
Author: Blakespear (D) and Umberg (D), et al.
Amended: 6/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Padilla, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar, Pérez

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Weber Pierson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

SOURCE: California Professional Firefighters

DIGEST: This bill permits a first responder to request the county behavioral health (CBH) agency file a petition to commence the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act process to investigate a person's eligibility. Requires Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment to complete a review of the request within 30 days and determine whether to file a petition.

Assembly Amendments change two references of "respondent" to "individual" to accurately reflect that a person is not actually part of the CARE process yet in those instances.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) to help connect an individual (known as a "respondent") with a court-ordered CARE agreement or CARE plan for up to 12 months, with the possibility to extend for an additional 12 months, that provides individualized, appropriate community-based services and supports, which include clinically appropriate behavioral health care and stabilization medications, housing, and other supportive services. [Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §5970, et seq.]

2) Requires an individual, to qualify as a respondent in the CARE process, to:
   a) Be 18 years of age or older;
   b) Be currently experiencing a serious mental disorder and have a diagnosis of schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorder. Prohibits an individual who has a current diagnosis of substance use disorder, but who does not also meet the required criteria, from qualifying for the CARE process;
   c) Not be clinically stabilized in ongoing voluntary treatment;
   d) Be unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision and their condition is substantially deteriorating; or, be in need of services and supports in order to prevent a relapse or deterioration that would be likely to result in grave disability or serious harm to self or others, resulting in involuntary detention;
   e) Participation in a CARE plan or CARE agreement would be the least restrictive alternative necessary to ensure the individual's recovery and stability; and,
   f) Be likely to benefit from participation in a CARE plan or CARE agreement. [WIC §5972]

3) Permits the following adult persons to file a petition to commence the CARE process:
   a) A person with whom the respondent resides;
   b) A spouse, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent or an individual who stands in loco parentis to the respondent;
   c) The director of a hospital or the director's designee, in which the respondent is hospitalized, including hospitalized pursuant to the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act involuntary detention law;
   d) The director of a public or charitable organization, agency, or home, or their designee, who has, within the previous 30 days, provided or who is currently providing behavioral health services to the respondent or in whose institution the respondent resides;
   e) A licensed behavioral health professional, or their designee, who is, or has been within the previous 30 days, either supervising the treatment of, or treating the respondent for a mental illness;
   f) A first responder (FR), including a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, mobile crisis response worker, or homeless outreach worker, who has had repeated interactions with the respondent in the form of multiple arrests, multiple detentions and transportation pursuant to the LPS, multiple attempts to engage the respondent in voluntary treatment, or other repeated efforts to aid the respondent in obtaining professional assistance;
   g) The public guardian or public conservator, or their designee, of the county in which the respondent resides or is found;
   h) The director of CBH, or their designee, of the county in which the respondent resides or is found;
   i) The director of county adult protective services, or their designee, of the county in which the respondent resides or is found;
   j) The director of a California Indian health services program, California tribal behavioral health department, who has, within the previous 30 days, provided or who is currently providing behavioral health services to the respondent, or the director's designee;
   k) The judge of a tribal court located in California before which the respondent has appeared within the previous 30 days, or the judge's designee; or,
   l) The respondent. [WIC §5974]

4) Requires the court to review a petition promptly, and after a series of investigations, reports, and hearings that determine if an individual meets CARE criteria, to:

a) Dismiss the matter if the court determines voluntary engagement with the respondent is effective, and they have enrolled or are likely to enroll in voluntary behavioral health treatment;
b) Order CBH to work with the respondent, the respondent's counsel, and the supporter ("the parties") to engage the respondent in behavioral health treatment and attempt to enter into a CARE agreement, approve the agreement, and set a progress hearing for 60 days, if voluntary engagement is not effective;
c) Order CBH, through a licensed behavioral health professional, to conduct a clinical evaluation of the respondent to determine if they meet CARE criteria, if the parties are not likely to enter into a CARE agreement; and,
d) Order CBH and the parties to jointly develop a CARE plan within 14 days, if the respondent does meet CARE criteria. [WIC §5977(a)(5)(A), §5977 (c)(2), §5977.1(a)(2)(A), §5977.1(b), and §5977.1(c)(3)(A)]

5) Requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide training and technical assistance to CBH to support CARE implementation, including training regarding the CARE process; CARE agreement and plan services and supports; supported decision making; the supporter role; trauma-informed care; elimination of bias; psychiatric advance directives' family psychoeducation; and, data collection. [WIC §5983(b)]

This bill:

1) Permits an FR, in addition to directly filing a petition to commence the CARE process, to request the CBH of the county in which the respondent resides or is found to file a petition to commence the CARE process if the FR believes that an individual meets or is likely to meet criteria to qualify for the CARE process, Requires the request to include contact information for the individual, including a telephone number and address, if available, and other information as specified by DHCS.

2) Requires CBH, within 30 business days of the request, to complete a review of the request and determine whether to file a petition.

3) Requires CBH, upon completing the review, to notify the FR about the outcome of the review of the request and whether the individual met criteria for the CARE process.

4) Requires DHCS to develop a referral form to be used by an FR and to issue guidance regarding the procedure for an FR to request CBH to file a petition to commence the CARE process for an individual, and to include data regarding FR requests made to CBH in the annual CARE Act report.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> CARE was created to provide a structured, coordinated pathway to treatment for individuals with severe mental illness who are too often cycling through emergency rooms, jail, and repeated law enforcement encounters. Today, FRs are often the first point of contact for individuals in crisis, but current law makes it difficult for them to file a CARE petition. To do it, they must navigate a complex court filing process, obtain sensitive medical records, and appear in court. This bill creates a more practical and effective pathway by allowing FRs to request that CBH investigate and file CARE petitions on their behalf. This bill would expand access to CARE and help more Californians with untreated psychotic disorders receive the care they need.

CARE. SB 1338 (Umberg and Eggman, Chapter 319, Statutes of 2022) established CARE to help connect an individual in crisis with a court-ordered CARE plan for up to 12 months, with the possibility to extend for an additional 12 months. The framework provides these individuals (referred to as "respondents" in the CARE process) with a clinically appropriate, community-based set of services and supports that are culturally and linguistically competent, which includes short-term stabilization medications, wellness and recovery supports, connection to social services, and a housing plan. The California Health and Human Services Agency states that CARE is an upstream diversion to prevent more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration, based on evidence that demonstrates many people can stabilize, begin healing, and exit homelessness in less restrictive, community-based care settings. With advances in treatment models, new longer-acting antipsychotic treatments, and the right clinical team and housing plan, individuals who have historically suffered tremendously on the streets or during avoidable incarceration can be successfully stabilized and supported in the community. The first cohort of counties implemented CARE beginning October 1, 2023, and included Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne, and the City and County of San Francisco. Los Angeles County implemented early and began accepting CARE petitions on December 1, 2023. The

second cohort of counties, representing the remaining population of the state, began accepting CARE petitions as of December 1, 2024.

CARE Act 2025 first annual report. As reported by DHCS in its initial annual report, data from the first nine months of CARE implementation demonstrate that, even in its early stages, the CARE process is connecting people with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders with evidence-based treatments and housing plans. This reflects a meaningful shift in helping the state's most vulnerable populations towards long-term recovery, lasting wellness, and housing stability. Relative to this bill, the report states that 556 CARE petitions had been received by the courts as of June 30, 2024 (the first nine months of CARE implementation). Of the filed CARE petitions, 217 (39%) were dismissed. There were 101 approved CARE agreements or ordered CARE plans. The remainder of filed CARE petitions were still in the court review process at the time of this report development and were pending disposition assignment, as reported by DHCS. Of the total 556 petitions submitted to the court, 497 CARE petitions were received by CBH during the first nine months of CARE implementation (representing 490 unique CARE respondents, given that some respondents were petitioned more than once). CBH are only aware of, and able to track, CARE petitions they file themselves or those they are ordered to investigate by the courts. Petitions may also be pending court determination at the end of the reporting period covered in the report. Of the 490 unique CARE respondents that were sent to CBH, 101 had a CARE agreement approved, or CARE plan ordered by the court as their first CARE disposition; 160 were dismissed by the court; and 229 did not yet have a court disposition assigned. Among the 160 dismissed respondents, 15 became elective clients, 55 were found to be ineligible for CARE but received CBH services, and 90 were found to be ineligible for CARE and did not receive any CBH services. The report further notes that of the 490 CARE respondents that were sent to CBHs, 334 (68%) were petitioned by someone with a personal relationship to the respondent (referred to as a personal petition); 107 (22%) by a system partner (defined as a hospital director, licensed behavioral health professional treating client, public guardian, or conservator); 34 (7%) by an FR; and 14 (3%) by the respondent themselves.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

DHCS estimates one-time costs of $500,000 in contract resources in fiscal year 2027-28 to expand the existing training and technical assistance (TTA) contract to support comprehensive revision and cataloging of statewide CARE Act training

materials and curricula, including dedicated TTA to first responders and counties on DHCS referral form requirements, implementation support, and workflow development to ensure consistent statewide adoption of the new referral pathway, local workflow development, and augmentation to CARE Act data collection and reporting tools (General Fund). DHCS notes additional, absorbable state operations costs to update claiming guidance, claim forms, and rates.

DHCS states county behavioral health agencies could submit claims for reimbursement for costs associated with this bill, such as reviewing requests from first responders within 30 days. Using the 2025 Annual CARE Act Report to analyze the number of petitions submitted by first responders to county behavioral health agencies, DHCS estimates the resulting local assistance costs likely would not exceed $1 million, all of which would be reimbursable by the state. For its part, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) estimates state-reimbursable costs to counties of $691,000 to $3.1 million to conduct outreach and engagement to find an individual within the bill's timeline to initiate CARE processes (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Professional Firefighters (source)
California Contract Cities Association
California Hospital Association
City of Bakersfield
City of Oceanside
County of San Diego District Attorney's Office

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Cal Voices
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Peer Watch
Disability Rights California
Mental Health America of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Professional Firefighters (CPF) as sponsor argue California's firefighters are on the front lines of delivering emergency medical services throughout the state, including to patients who are experiencing a mental health crisis, leading in evolving the local response framework to improve patient care. For example, CPF cosponsored legislation in 2020 that established community paramedicine and triage to alternate destination

programs, including allowing a paramedic to triage a patient and take them to an appropriate behavioral health facility to get the services they need at the right time. Moreover, many jurisdictions have developed mobile mental health units, bringing together a suite of public safety and medical professionals to improve care in the field. CPF argues despite that work more needs to be done. Firefighters in the field see patients daily who are in desperate need of robust care, but gaps in the system lead to patients not receiving the right kind of care at the right time. While firefighters are well-situated to identify individuals who may be eligible for CARE given their presence and engagement in the community, barriers, such as general lack of information, training, and support for CARE still exist throughout California, leaving many firefighters unable to participate or even unaware that they are able to begin the petition process. Additionally, firefighters and other first responders are responsible for hundreds of emergency calls and may lack the local resources needed to complete petitions and appear in the court process as required. Those who are able to begin the petition process may not have access to the required medical records or other documentation required by the court.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Disability Rights California (DRC) and California Peer Watch argue that they share first responders' concerns, but streamlining processes for referring people into CARE is not the solution. DRC argues people with CARE agreements or plans are placed on the same waitlists for services as anyone seeking services on their own, like one respondent who was placed on a waitlist for medication services that was three months long. The CARE First Annual Report noted 56.4% of CARE participants did not receive at least one ordered behavioral health service—including peer support, medication supports, and therapy—and 82.2% of CARE participants did not receive at least one ordered social service or support. CARE is also failing to achieve its goal of preventing crises or stopping people from cycling through emergency services, and coercive treatment interferes with the therapeutic relationship and is counter to sound public health policy. The quality of the therapeutic relationship is critical for a client's engagement in treatment, adherence to a medication plan, management of symptoms, overall treatment outcomes, and quality of life. California should be working to improve, not destroy, the therapeutic relationship. DRC says the state should be investing in community-based services, including: peer-led hotlines and warmlines that answer calls and texts that would otherwise go to 911; mobile crisis response teams that respond to mental health calls that would otherwise receive a police, fire, or ambulance response; peer respites that offer a space for healing for individuals who might otherwise find themselves in an emergency room; and full-service partnerships that actually connect people with whatever they need: housing, food, case management, medical, or mental health care. Cal Voices argues this bill

complicates the CARE process and could worsen the already coercive conditions faced by respondents. Mental Health of America California argues the right to appeal is a right exclusively given to respondents in CARE. Other petitioners may refile if their petition is dismissed. FRs should not be given the power to appeal the county's decision when that decision is in favor of the respondent, particularly when the respondent is unaware of any assessment or investigation occurring, as such appeals will create further unnecessary burdens for the counties.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/25/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bryan, Elhawary, McKinnor, Pellerin, Ransom, Sharp-Collins

Prepared by: Reyes Diaz / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 18:59:11

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 991
Author: Menjivar (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Becker, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Ochoa Bogh

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Residential care facilities for the elderly: categorization of citations

SOURCE: California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), when a Residential Care for the Elderly (RCFE) licensee is cited for a deficiency that constitutes abuse to categorize the type of abuse. This bill describes the categories of abuse. Requires CDSS to ensure that these categories of abuse are reflected in any public-facing transparency, licensing, or enforcement databases maintained by CDSS.

Assembly Amendments make technical and clarifying amendments, and delay implementation from July 1, 2027 to July 1, 2029.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Creates the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] § 15600 et seq.)

2) Creates the California RCFE Act. (Health and Safety Code [HSC] §1569 et seq.)

3) Defines RCFE as a housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by persons 60 years of age or over, or their authorized representative, where varying levels and intensities of care and supervision, protective supervision, or personal care are provided, based upon their varying needs, as determined in order to be admitted and to remain in the facility. Allows persons under 60 years of age with compatible needs to be admitted or retained if a licensee determines that person is compatible, as defined. (HSC § 1569.2)

4) Requires a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or state or local public agency to have a current valid license to operate, establish, manage, conduct, or maintain an RCFE. (HSC § 1569.10)

5) Requires CDSS to inspect and license RCFEs. (HSC § 1569.11)

6) Tasks the administrator of an RCFE with the responsibility to provide or ensure provision of services to residents with appropriate regard for the residents' physical and mental well-being and needs. (22 California Code of Regulation [CCR] § 87405)

7) Establishes the Resident's Bill of Rights for residents of RCFEs. (HSC § 1569.269)

8) Requires every licensed RCFE to provide at least the following basic services:

   a) Care and supervision.

   b) Assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in the combinations which meet the needs of residents.

   c) Helping residents gain access to appropriate supportive services, as defined, in the community.

   d) Being aware of the residents' general whereabouts, although the resident may travel independently in the community.

e) Monitoring the activities of the residents while they are under supervision of the facility to ensure their general health, safety, and well-being.

f) Encouraging the residents to maintain and develop their maximum functional ability through participation in planned activities. (HSC § 1569.312)

This bill:

1) Requires CDSS, when a licensee is cited for a deficiency that constitutes abuse, to categorize the citation according to the specific type of abuse established by the evidence.

2) Defines for the purposes of categorizing each citation, CDSS to categorize each citation into one of the following categories that is most applicable and relevant based on the facts and circumstances of the citation: physical abuse, sexual abuse, abandonment, financial exploitation, involuntary seclusion, mental abuse or suffering, neglect.

3) Makes the provisions of this bill operative July 1, 2029.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author, "Currently, the way that elder and dependent adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation are categorized by CDSS is very broadly as a violation of residents' rights rather than by the specific type of abuse found to have occurred. Examples could include a facility with rat infestations, residents wandering off without supervision, medications not properly administered, residents with bed sores, or facility staff fraudulently writing a $30,000 check to themselves, and it would all be cited and categorized as a violation of residents' rights (i.e., the "right" to be free from abuse and neglect). This umbrella category obscures how often specific forms of abuse (physical, financial, etc.) occur in RCFEs. This limits the usefulness of the data and doesn't give us an accurate depiction to inform our approach as a state to this vulnerable population. It also diminishes the experience of victims reporting these incidents and confuses consumers who are seeking information about which facilities have been found to abuse their residents. The need for Elder Abuse accountability is paramount, given that by 2040, the number of adults in institutional group settings is projected to increase by 51% according to a report by the Public Policy Institute of California. SB 991 will ensure that we are promoting consumer transparency and accountability in RCFEs by improving how substantiated reports of abuse and

neglect are categorized by CDSS and their public facing licensing and enforcement databases."

Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) RCFEs, also known as assisted living facilities, are residential facilities that provide 24-hour nonmedical care and supervision for persons in need of personal services, supervision, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living or for the protection of the individual who is 60 years of age or older. RCFEs provide housing, housekeeping, supervision, and personal care assistance with activities of daily living to individuals who need that level of care. These are nonmedical facilities that are designed for individuals who are unable to live by themselves, but who do not need 24-hour nursing care. As such, these facilities are not required to have nurses, certified nursing assistants or doctors on staff. RCFEs centrally store and distribute medications for residents to self-administer. Residents of RCFEs may have mental, behavioral, or physical health needs or a developmental disability that results in their inability to live independently. These facilities range in size from small facilities operating out of single-family homes serving a handful of residents to larger buildings that can house over 100 residents.

As of February 2026, there are over 8,000 licensed senior care facilities with a total capacity of over 200,000. RCFEs are licensed and regulated by CDSS's Community Care Licensing Division (Division). The Division protects the health and safety of persons residing in RCFEs through its regulatory and enforcement programs. In addition to its licensing requirements, the Division conducts regular inspections of facilities to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Violations can result in citations, fines and, in extreme cases, loss of a license to operate a facility.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) CCRCs offer people age 60 and older a full range of long-term care options that include independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing care. This model allows senior residents to move from independence to high levels of care without leaving the community in which they reside. Typically, this is provided in a campus-like community setting, usually for a resident's lifetime, and always for at least one year. CCRCs require residents to sign a contract that sets forth the range of services, sometimes at an additional cost, depending on the type of contract, to be provided by the CCRC to the resident. CCRCs offer a broad range of contract options so that they have the flexibility to offer a range of services that meet their residents' varied needs. Each CCRC offers different options on costs of service, payment methods, services provided, and other elements, including lifestyle choices. All CCRCs must obtain

an RCFE license and if they offer skilled nursing services, must hold a Skilled Nursing Facility License issued by the California Department of Public Health.

Complaint Data Available to the Public When looking for a facility for oneself or a family member, a likely concern is how safe the facility is. The state provides public information about violations at facilities, but the specificity of such information varies by type of facility. This occurs even in facilities that are co-located, like RCFEs and Skilled Nursing Facilities in CCRCs.

For example, when researching a specific facility in Sacramento with both a RCFE and SNF, the information available on the public facing state websites varies in accessibility and detail. The California Department of Public Health website shows that the statewide average for complaints/reported incidents is 39 and the facility in question had 117. The website also shows/lists the details of these complaints, including the intake received date, allegation category (e.g., physical environment, quality of care/treatment), allegation subcategory (e.g., facility staffing, facility not clean, employee to resident), investigation findings (if deficiencies are noted or not), and intake type. This provides a clear picture for both residents and potential residents, lawmakers, and advocates to understand the types of allegations being made against the facility as well as what, if any, have been substantiated.

This contrasts with what is available for RCFEs. Looking at the same facility for the same calendar year, the CDSS website shows four complaint investigations. For each investigation it shows the number of allegations unfounded, substantiated, and unsubstantiated; the number of Type A and Type B citations; and dates of visits. Additional information is available on each complaint by clicking the most recent date of visit, which takes you to the complaint investigation report.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1911 (Reyes, 2024) would have modified the current procedures for complaints against RCFEs to the CDSS. The bill would have required CDSS to investigate complaints within specified timelines and to provide written notifications to complainants. The bill would have provided a process for a complainant to appeal the outcome of an investigation. AB 1911 was held on the Senate Appropriations suspense file.

AB 1387 (Chu, Chapter 486, Statutes of 2015) streamlined the appeals process for community care facility civil penalty and violation appeals and enhanced the complaint process for residential care facilities for the elderly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee: CDSS estimates ongoing General Fund costs of approximately $1.53 million in the first year and $1.31 million annually ongoing for additional staff to meet the requirements of the bill. These positions include one manager and five analysts to oversee and support implementation and to address complaints and implement newly established procedures, including training and technical assistance to licensees, as well as one IT specialist to review and guide security for necessary system changes and one limited-term analyst to ensure implementation integrates into existing planned and current website changes.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association (Sponsor)
AARP
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Association for Adult Day Services
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
California Coalition on Family Caregiving
California Elder Justice Coalition
California Health Advocates
Consumer Attorneys of California
Council on Aging, Southern California
Council on Aging-southern California Long-term Care Ombudsman Program, Riverside County, Psa 21
Disability Action Center
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
El Dorado County Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
Elder Law & Advocacy
Empowered Aging
Family Caregiver Alliance
Integrated Community Collaborative

Justice in Aging
Kern County Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
Legal Assistance for Seniors
Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of San Luis Obispo County
Long Term Care Services of Ventura Co, Ombudsman
Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, INC.
Placer Independent Resource Services
Retired Public Employees Association
San Francisco Long Term Care Ombudsman Felton Institute
Senior Advocacy Services
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Wise and Healthy Aging

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/25/26 21:20:33

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 993
Author: Ochoa Bogh (R), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensees: notices

SOURCE: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

DIGEST: This bill revises licensure disclosure requirements for Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensees or registrants, if certain requirements are met.

Assembly Amendments authorize a BBS licensee or registrant, instead of an employing entity or agency of a licensee or registrant, in specified practice settings, to exercise discretion whether to include specified information required to be included in a client notice based on individual safety concerns if the employing entity or agency authorizes the licensee or registrant to exercise discretion and

requires the specified practice setting maintain a process allowing a client to obtain sufficient identifying information to file a complaint with the BBS, that process is disclosed to the client as part of the notice, and a copy of the notice is preserved in the client's records.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the BBS to license and regulate Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), Educational Psychologists (LEP), Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC). (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 4980 *et seq*.)

2) Defines a MFT and PCC "associate" as an unlicensed person who has earned a master's or doctoral degree qualifying the individual for licensure, as specified. (BPC § 4980.03(b) 4999.12(f))

3) Defines a MFT and PCC "trainee" as an unlicensed person who is currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program that is designed to qualify the person for licensure and who has completed no less than 12 semester or 18 quarter units in any qualifying degree program. (BPC § 4980.03 (c) (4999.12(g))

4) Requires a LMFT, LEP, LCSW, and LPCC to display their license in a conspicuous place in the licensee's primary place of practice. (BPC §§ 4980.31, 4989.48, 4996.7, 4999.70)

5) Requires aLMFT, LEP, LCSW, and LPCC to provide a written notice to clients prior to initiating psychotherapy services, that informs the client that the BBS receives and reviews complaints, as specified. (BPC §§ 4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.75, 4999.71)

6) Unless specifically exempted, requires a person to obtain a valid license or registration with the Board before engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, or professional clinical counseling (BPC §§ 4980(b), 4996(b), 4999.30))

This bill:

1) Authorizes an employing entity or agency of a licensee or registrant to exercise discretion, in specific practice settings, whether to include any or all of the

following information: the licensee's or registrant's full name as filed with the board, the license or registration number, the type of license or registration and the registration expiration date in the notice required prior to initiating psychotherapy services, if the setting has an established process by which the client may request and obtain sufficient identification information to file a complaint with the board, that process is disclosed to the client as part of the notice and a copy of the notice is preserved as part of the client's records. Requires the licensee or registrant to be responsible, if exercising discretion is utilized, for ensuring the process to request and obtain identification is in place.

2) Includes the following specific practice settings: an acute psychiatric hospital, a correctional treatment center, any setting where mental health services are provided to incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state, or federal correctional authority, including but not limited to, a state prison, county jail, juvenile detention facility, or other correctional setting operated by or under contract with a governmental entity.

Background

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licenses and regulates Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs), and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs). Additionally, the Board registers Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs), Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs).

The Board is responsible for the regulatory oversight of over 148,000 licensees and registrants. Each profession has its own scope of practice, entry-level requirements, and professional settings with some overlap in areas. LMFTs are employed in mental health agencies, counseling centers, and private practice. LMFT's utilize counseling or therapeutic techniques to assist individuals, couples, families, and groups with a focus on marriage, family, and relationship issues. AMFTs have completed the required educational program and are in the process of obtaining the hours of supervisory experience required for licensure. LCSWs are employed in health facilities, private practice, and state and county mental health agencies. LCSWs utilize counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques to assist individuals, couples, families, and groups. ASWs have completed the required educational program and are in the process of obtaining the hours of supervisory experience required for licensure. LEPs work in schools or in private practice and provide educational counseling services such as aptitude and achievement testing or psychological testing. LEPs may not provide psychological testing or counseling

services that are unrelated to academic learning processes in the education system. LPCCs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, private practice, and community-based mental health organizations. They apply counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques to identify and remediate cognitive, mental, and emotional issues, including personal growth, adjustment to disability, crisis intervention, and psychosocial and environmental problems. LPCCs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, private practice, and community-based mental health organizations. APCCs have completed the required educational program and are in the process of obtaining the hours of supervisory experience required for licensure.

Disclosure Requirements. Current law requires a licensee prominently display their license in their primary place of practice when conducting mental health services in person confirming for the patient that they are licensed with the BBS. Licensees or registrants licensed by the BBS are also required to provide a client with written notice prior to initiating mental health services, or as soon as possible, that states that the BBS receives and responds to complaints from consumers about mental health services rendered and document in a client's record. Due to the rise in telehealth services the requirements to physically display a license outside a traditional office setting became impractical. In response, SB 1024 (Ochoa Bogh, Chapter 160, Statues of 2024) updated the procedures for licensed professionals regulated by the BBS by requiring that the written notice also includes the licensee's or registrant's full name as filed with the Board, the license and registration number, the type of license or registration, and the expiration date of the license or registration, amongst other provisions. Providing this identifying information to the client receiving telehealth services was a practical solution to create transparency and allow clients to obtain sufficient information to file a complaint, if needed.

As a precautionary measure, this bill seeks to restore previous protections for licensees and registrants who work in high-risk practice settings by allowing employers, based on individual safety concerns, to limit the amount of identifying information that is disclosed to the client, if the practice setting has an established process for the client to obtain said information to file a complaint, the process is disclosed to the client and recorded in the client file.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the BBS anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME), AFL-CIO (sponsor)
County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA)
The California Baptist Capitol Ministry

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: AFSCME, CBHDA and The California Baptist Capitol Ministry write in support, "The challenges surrounding mental health staffing in California's state civil service are well-illustrated by recent JLAC audit findings and by the Coleman Receivership. Numerous public agencies are currently experiencing acute shortages of licensed mental health professionals, particularly those who work with incarcerated individuals. Creating and maintaining safe work environments is crucial for recruiting and retaining qualified professionals in this field. By supporting SB 993 we can take a significant step toward ensuring that mental health practitioners feel secure and supported in their roles, allowing them to focus on delivering essential services to incarcerated individuals without compromising their own safety. This bill restores longstanding protections for therapists by allowing them to withhold identifying information, allowing therapists and other professionals to continue delivery of care without risks to personal safety."

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /
8/24/26 17:17:37

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 996
Author: Padilla (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 3/17/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Ashby, Cabaldon, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Manufactured housing: classification as real property

SOURCE: Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services
ROC USA

DIGEST: This bill 1) updates the definition of "manufactured home" to conform with federal statutes; 2) requires the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) to promulgate regulations to achieve parity for manufactured homes not built on a permanent chassis; and, 3) requires HCD to consult with key experts and report to the Legislature on the statutory and regulatory changes necessary to regulate, finance, title, tax, and protect homeowners in divided-tenure and leasehold homeownership arrangements.

Assembly Amendments narrow the bill to conform the state definition of "manufactured housing" with a new federal definition. Amendments also change the responsibilities assigned to HCD with respect to regulating manufactured homes not built on a permanent chassis, as well as reporting on what is needed to develop a new statutory and regulatory framework for homeowners in divided-tenure and leasehold homeownership arrangements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, pursuant to The Mobilehome Parks Act (Act), HCD to establish regulations for manufactured home, mobilehome, and commercial modular foundation systems.

2) Requires HCD to enforce the Act, unless a city, county, or city and county has assumed responsibility for enforcement.

3) Authorizes a manufactured home or mobilehome to be installed on a foundation system as either a fixture or improvement to the real property if certain conditions are met.

4) Requires a manufactured home or mobilehome owner or licensed contractor to obtain a building permit from the appropriate enforcement agency before installing the unit on a foundation system by, among other things, submitting written evidence acceptable to the enforcement agency that the manufactured homeowner or mobile homeowner owns, holds title to, or is purchasing the real property where the mobilehome is to be installed on a foundation system.

   a) Specifies that a lease held by the owner, that is transferable, for the exclusive use of the real property where the manufactured home or mobilehome is to be installed, is deemed to comply with that requirement if the lease is for a term of 35 years or more, or if fewer than 35 years, for a term mutually agreed upon by the lessor and lessee, and the term of the lease is not revocable at the discretion of the lessor except for cause, as specified.

5) Authorizes HCD's Registration and Titling Program, which provides registration and title documents for new or resold manufactured homes, including the Form 433A which is completed when a manufactured home is placed on a permanent foundation system, to be deemed as real property.

6) Instructs HCD to provide for an orderly and economic transfer of registrations and titles for manufactured homes and mobilehomes previously issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

7) Allows HCD to establish a schedule of fees to pay for the costs of work related to administration and enforcement over permitting and titling of manufactured housing, except where the fees are expressly stated herein.

8) Establishes, pursuant to The Manufactured Home Property Tax Law, a process governing the taxation of manufactured homes, including mobilehomes, as defined.

9) Permits manufactured homes to be titled in one of two ways: real property or personal property.

10) Recognizes, by default, manufactured homes as personal property, unless they meet certain conditions.

11) Excludes a manufactured home that has become real property by being affixed to land on a permanent foundation system pursuant to the Act and is taxed as all other real property is taxed.

This bill:

1) Defines "manufactured home" to mean a structure that was constructed on or after June 15, 1976, with or without a foundation system, and has the same meaning as defined in Section 5402 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

2) Clarifies that "manufactured home" does not mean a commercial modular, factory-built housing, a mobilehome, a multifamily manufactured home, or a recreational vehicle, as each are defined.

3) Requires HCD on or before July 1, 2027, to review, revise, and adopt regulations to permit the construction, installation, sale, and occupancy of a manufactured home built without a permanent chassis in parity with those applicable to a manufactured home built with a permanent chassis.

   a) Exempts those regulations from the Administrative Procedure Act.

4) Requires HCD on or before July 1, 2027, to report to the Legislature on the status of the regulations required by 3), as specified.

5) Requires HCD on or before July 1, 2029, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the statutory and administrative changes necessary to

regulate, finance, title, tax, and protect homeowners in divided-tenure and leasehold homeownership arrangements, as specified.

6) Requires HCD, in preparing the report to the Legislature required by 5), to contract with appropriate outside parties to consult with specified experts.

Background

Mobilehome parks in California. More than 1 million people live in approximately 4,500 mobilehome parks throughout California. Mobile and manufactured homes are unique in that they are one of the only remaining forms of naturally occurring affordable housing – meaning they are offered at comparatively affordable prices without public subsidy. According to the Manufactured Housing Institute, manufactured homes cost up to 50% less per square foot than conventional site-built homes.[1] Further, the Urban Institute notes that the quality and appeal of manufactured homes built to US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards has improved dramatically, making them a viable affordable housing option.[2] While these units are often colloquially referred to as mobilehomes, the vast majority of them are not actually mobile due to prohibitive relocation costs and limited financial flexibility among homeowners. Once placed on a foundation, removing the home from it for transport can cost upwards of tens of thousands of dollars. In practice, this puts many mobile and manufactured homeowners in a unique position, where they own their unit, but lease the land their unit is on, making them both an owner and a tenant.

Comments

1) *Author's statement.* "Expanding access to homeownership is a vital step in supporting affordability and wealth building for low and moderate income households. Manufactured homes are a low cost and underutilized form of housing, but currently a legal technicality has made affordable financing on manufactured homes unnecessarily difficult. SB 996 would address this discrepancy by creating a process for owners of manufactured homes to title their home as real property. This would allow access to more favorable

[1] Manufactured Housing Institute, *2023 Manufactured Housing Facts* (June 2023), **2023-Industry-Overview.pdf (manufacturedhousing.org)**

[2] Urban Institute, The Role of Manufactured Housing in Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing (July 2022), Accessible here: **https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/The%20Role%20of%20Manufactured%20Housing%20in%20Increasing%20the%20Supply%20of%20Affordable%20Housing.pdf**..

financing and make owning a manufactured home much more affordable for Californians."

2) *A manufactured solution to the affordability crisis.* Amidst the state's severe shortage of affordable housing, manufactured housing is seen as a crucial component to deliver lower-cost ownership opportunities without public subsidy. According to the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, manufactured homes average $72 per square-foot, or just over half the site-built home average of $144.[3] While manufactured housing units cost far less than site-built single family homes, proponents of this bill assert that barriers to real property titling lead to higher monthly costs for these homeowners, counter to the promise of manufactured housing's affordability.

3) *When "naturally occurring affordable housing" becomes unaffordable.* For manufactured homeowners whose homes are titled as personal property, rather than real property, they cannot access traditional mortgages in California. In practice, this means many enter into contract financing agreements – which frequently have higher interest rates, abbreviated terms, and higher denial rates. With those added costs, the promise of manufactured housing to provide affordable housing stability can be derailed. The Urban Institute compiled data that illustrate these gaps between personal and real property loans.[4]

	Personal Property (Contract Financing)	*Real Property (Mortgage)*
Total Loan Volume	55,703 ($5.4 billion)	76,277 ($15.3 billion)
Landowner Share	25.3%	99.6%
Median Interest Late	8.0%	5.5%
Denial Rates	65.5%	43.0%

To put those rates in perspective, here's a breakdown of what those averages mean for manufactured homeowners, using average terms for each loan type:

	Personal Property Loan	*Real Property Mortgage*
Starting Principal	$150,000	

[3] Christopher Herbet, et al. Comparison of the Costs of Manufactured and Site-Built Housing. Accessible here: **https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/research/files/harvard_jchs_pew_report_1_updated_0.pdf**. July 2023.
[4] Sarah Gerecke, et al. Manufactured Housing Personal Property Loans. Accessible here: **https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/Manufactured%20Housing%20Personal%20Property%20Loans.pdf**. September 2023.

Rates & Terms	8% for 15 years	5.5% for 30 years
Monthly Payment	$1433.48	$851.68

For manufactured homeowners, many of whom are on fixed incomes, monthly savings of over $580 (comparing monthly payments for personal property loans versus mortgages) could be transformative. The sponsors of the bill assert that by requiring HCD to study the statutory and regulatory conditions needed to enable greater real property titling of these units, California will be on a path to foster greater housing affordability, particularly among populations that are most in need and at higher risk of becoming homeless.

4) *Manufactured homeownership demographics.* According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the median income for households in manufactured homes is only half that of households in site-built homes. Additionally, older households, households with only a high school degree, and households with relatively low net worth are all disproportionately represented among households in manufactured homes.[5] In effect, these households are more susceptible to housing instability that can arise from more unpredictable and costly monthly payments – often characteristic of personal property loans.

5) *Federal conformity.* On July 11, 2026, the federal 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act became law, with provisions affecting a variety of federal housing statutes, including those related to mobile and manufactured homes. One of the notable changes is updating the federal definition of "manufactured home" to include homes *not* built on a permanent chassis, and requiring each state to update their regulations to ensure definitional conformity. This bill would do that by updating the definitions of "manufactured home" within both the Commercial Code and Health and Safety Code.

6) *Report back to me.* This bill requires HCD to consult with relevant experts and then identify the statutory and regulatory changes necessary to regulate, finance, title, tax, and protect homeowners in divided-tenure and leasehold homeownership arrangements, including circumstances in which the occupant owns a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial modular separately from the land beneath it. This bill requires HCD to share those findings in a report to the Legislature, as specified.

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[5] U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. *Manufactured-housing consumer finance in the United States*. Accessible here: **https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201409_cfpb_report_manufactured-housing.pdf**. September 2014.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) One-time General Fund (GF) costs of an unknown amount, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, to HCD for additional limited-term staff to consult with specified entities and prepare and submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2029.

2) One-time GF costs to HCD to adopt regulations and report to the Legislature are likely absorbable.

3) Costs to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and the State Board of Equalization of an unknown amount to consult on the report.

4) Costs to county assessors and recorders of an unknown, but potentially significant amount to consult with HCD on the report. These costs are potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, INC. (Co-source)
Roc USA (Co-source)
California Coalition for Community Investment
California Yimby
Casita Coalition
Excite Credit Union
Five Rivers Loan Fund, INC.
Habitat for Humanity California
Housing California
Inland So Cal Housing Collective
National Housing Law Project
New Way Homes
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Self-help Enterprises
Unidosus

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Mobilehome Park Owners Alliance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Those writing in support of the bill argue that it would empower manufactured homeowners to achieve greater parity with site-built housing through greater access to real property titling and the mortgage market, which could improve affordability and stability.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Those writing in opposition to the bill argue that it could introduce novel legal and financial disputes within mobilehome parks.

Prepared by: Ryan Hardmeyer / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/25/26 15:51:38

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1000
Author: Becker (D)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 8-1, 4/13/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Jones

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 33-1, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Choi
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Dahle, Jones, Niello, Seyarto, Strickland

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: California AI Transparency Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes a number of changes to the California AI Transparency (CAIT) Act, including eliminating the requirement to offer manifest disclosures, removing the user threshold on the definition of "covered provider," amending the requirements applicable to third-party licensees, and amending other definitions and exemptions.

Assembly Amendments refine privacy protections, specify that various disclosure verification tool requirements may be fulfilled through the use of third-party disclosure verification tools, as provided, require latent disclosures to specify whether a generative artificial intelligence system is designed to primarily function as assistive technology, prohibit making false representations, among other changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CAIT Act, which becomes operative, in part, on August 2, 2026, and requires certain "covered providers" to make an artificial intelligence (AI) detection tool available at no cost by which a person can assess whether content was created or altered by the provider's GenAI system. (Business (Bus.) & Professions (Prof.) Code § 22757 et seq.)

2) Requires a "covered provider," a person that creates, codes, or otherwise produces a GenAI system that has over 1 million monthly visitors or users and is publicly accessible within the geographic boundaries of the state, to offer users the option to include in AI-generated image, video, or audio content created by its own generative AI system a manifest disclosure that meets specified criteria, including that it identifies the content as AI-generated content. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3(a).)

3) Requires a covered provider to include in AI-generated image, audio, and video content created by its generative AI system a latent disclosure that is detectable by the tool specified above and is, to the extent technically feasible, permanent or extraordinarily difficult to remove. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3(b).)

4) Prohibits a covered provider from doing any of the following in carrying out the duties above:

    a) Collect or retain personal information when a person utilizes the covered provider's AI detection tool, except that it may collect and retain the contact information of a person who submitted feedback.

    b) Retain any content submitted to the AI detection tool for longer than is necessary to comply with this law. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.2(c).)

5) Requires a large online platform, starting January 1, 2027, to do one of the following:

a) Detect whether any provenance data that is compliant with widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body is embedded into or attached to content distributed on the large online platform.

b) Provide a user interface to disclose the availability of system provenance data that reliably indicates that the content was generated or substantially altered by a GenAI system or captured by a capture device. The user interface shall make clearly and conspicuously available to users information sufficient to identify the content's authenticity, origin, or history of modification, including specified information such as whether provenance data is available.

c) Allow a user to inspect all available system provenance data that is compliant with widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body in an easily accessible manner by any of several specified means. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3.1.)

6) Provides that violators of the above provisions are liable for a civil penalty in the amount of $5,000 per violation to be collected in a civil action filed by the Attorney General, a city attorney, or a county counsel. Each day in violation is deemed a discrete violation. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.4.)

7) Provides that the CAIT Act does not apply to any product, service, website, or application that provides exclusively non-user-generated video game, television, streaming, movie, or interactive experiences.

This bill:

1) Removes the user threshold from the definition of "covered provider."

2) Removes the requirement for covered providers to offer users the option to include a manifest disclosure in content. Amends the latent disclosure requirement only to the extent "technically feasible."

3) Redefines "provenance data" to mean information about the origin of a piece of digital content and the history of modifications to the content that is in a format that is compliant, or interoperable with, widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body.

4) Replaces references to "AI detection tool" with "disclosure verification tool."

5) Provides that the tool need not detect altered content if only a "minor modification," which includes any of the following alterations:

a) A change to brightness, contrast, or color.

b) Sharpening.

c) Saturating.

d) File resizing.

e) Scaling.

f) Cropping.

g) File format conversions.

h) Denoising and removal of background noise in audio.

6) Authorizes covered providers to impose reasonable limitations on access to the tool to prevent misuse of the tool for malicious purposes.

7) Reworks the provisions regarding a users' personal information. A covered provider shall not make access to the covered provider's GenAI system or disclosure verification tool contingent upon providing personal information beyond what is strictly necessary for the specified purposes.

8) Reworks third-party licensing provisions. Permits covered providers to notify a noncompliant licensee instead of immediately terminating their license. If licensee fails to cure violation and report back to covered provider, requires covered provider to notify Attorney General.

9) Makes other technical and clarifying changes to the CAIT Act.

10) Includes an urgency clause.

Background

Certain forms of media – audio recordings, video recordings, and still images – can be powerful evidence of the truth. While such media have always been susceptible to some degree of manipulation, fakes were relatively easy to detect. The rapid advancement of AI technology, specifically the wide-scale introduction of GenAI models, has made it drastically cheaper and easier to produce synthetic content created, audio, images, text, and video recordings that are not real, but that are so realistic that they are virtually impossible to distinguish from authentic content.

Last session, the Legislature passed the California AI Transparency Act (CAIT), which, beginning August 2, 2026, regulates provenance data disclosure in AI-generated content. “Covered providers” are required to embed latent provenance disclosures in content generated by their GenAI systems and to offer manifest disclosures. Providers are required to make available an AI detection tool at no cost to the user that meets certain criteria, including that it allows a user to assess whether certain content was created or altered by the covered provider’s system.

This bill is a product of many stakeholder conversations that seeks to clean up the CAIT Act and ensure it accomplishes its intended goal of providing useful transparency to Californians. The bill is author-sponsored. It is supported by Transparency Coalition.AI and ForensicVB LLC. No timely opposition was received.

Comment

According to the author:

> As AI technology advances, distinguishing between human and machine-generated content becomes increasingly challenging. This ambiguity poses significant risks to Californians, exacerbating problems of disinformation, harassment, and fraud while threatening the integrity of the information environment our democracy and economy depend on. In 2024, the legislature passed SB 942, the first bill in the nation to establish disclosure requirements for synthetic content. Since then, content provenance technology has developed in such a way that the leading technologies for embedding provenance are not accurately described by the law. Additionally, some methods of marking content are still in their nascency, and aren’t yet robust enough to withstand adversarial exploitation or certain kinds of transformations (e.g., file compression, spoofing attacks, added noise to an image, or file type conversions). The original act also did not address the risk that visible labels create a binary signal implying that unlabeled content is authentic and labeled content is suspect - regardless of whether either inference is warranted. Furthermore, obligations for developers established by SB 942 do not require that the information embedded in AI generated or modified content be consistent - or interoperable with - widely adopted standards. Last year, AB 853 (Wicks) established obligations for large online platforms to read provenance data, but only if it was compliant with such standards. This gap risks establishing a fragmented ecosystem

where new methods of provenance disclosure that aren't interoperable with current standards are not read by large online platforms, and never subsequently relayed to users. In light of the low implementation cost of current provenance standards relative to costs of model development, this bill removes the user threshold from the definition of "covered provider" to expand obligations to any AI system which is publicly available within the state, and aligns the act's requirements to reflect the state of content provenance standards and international provenance disclosure regimes. This bill is critical to ensuring California's content labeling laws are effective at providing consumers with consistent information about where the content they see online comes from.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate civil actions. By expanding who may be considered a covered provider and, consequently, subject to civil penalties with statutory damages, this bill may lead to additional case filings. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 in staff workload. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

- The California Department of Technology (CDT) notes that it would not fall within the definition of covered provider under this bill; therefore, it anticipates only minor and absorbable costs to continue tracking developments in the AI space.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Potential minor costs to the Department of Justice (General Fund) for enforcement. The Attorney General's authority to enforce the chapter already exists under current law, which this bill does not amend: a violation is

subject to a civil penalty of $5,000 per violation, collected in a civil action filed by the Attorney General, a city attorney, or a county counsel. The bill does not create any new enforcement authority or mechanism. By removing the requirement that a covered provider have more than 1,000,000 monthly users, the bill enlarges the population of providers subject to the chapter, but any additional enforcement activity, and the associated costs, would likely be minor and would depend on whether the Attorney General elects to pursue actions under existing authority.

- The bill creates no new state program or appropriation, and the operative obligations apply to private covered providers. Enforcement by a city attorney or county counsel is permissive and would fall to local funds, so the bill imposes no reimbursable state-mandated local program. Any penalty revenue is not a significant or reliable funding source.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Center for Ai and Digital Policy (CAIDP)
Forensicvb LLC
Transparency Coalition.ai

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: ForensicVB LLC writes:

> From an operational standpoint, manifest disclosure or visible labels introduce a significant risk of investigative de-prioritization. When content is labeled—accurately or not—as AI-generated, it can create uncertainty at the front end of an investigation, delay triage decisions, and divert limited law enforcement resources away from time-sensitive CSAM cases. Put more simply, it has been reported that pedophiles operating on the Dark Web are labeling real CSAM content as "AI-generated" in the expectation that investigators will see the label and focus their attention on other non-labeled content.
>
> For these reasons, I believe SB 1000's current reliance on latent, provenance-based disclosure frameworks reflects a more responsible and technically sound path forward, and is consistent with existing content-provenance approaches already in use, such as the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) specifications. The

same professional experience that has led me to oppose manifest disclosure requirements has also led me to support latent disclosure approaches as a more reliable, durable, and effective trust signal for consumers of digital content. When implemented correctly, latent disclosure mechanisms can support authenticity, attribution, and accountability without creating avoidable investigative friction or opportunities for misuse.

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548, Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/25/26 18:16:37

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1004
Author: Wiener (D), Arreguín (D), Pérez (D) and Wahab (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 28-9, 5/19/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Hurtado, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 44-22, 8/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Law enforcement: masks

SOURCE: Prosecutors Alliance Action; Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice; SEIU California

DIGEST: This bill extends existing law enforcement agency requirements regarding facial coverings to law enforcement agencies of the state and peace officers employed by those agencies, expands exemptions to those requirements,

and modifies the civil liability provision associated with a violation of those requirements.

Assembly Amendments revise exemption language with regard to what constitutes a facial covering and recast the civil liability provision.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Provides that the U.S. Constitution (Const.), and the laws of the United States, are the supreme law of the land. (U.S. Const., art. VI, cl. 2.)

2) Provides that the federal government has the exclusive authority to regulate immigration and naturalization. (U.S. Const., art. 1, § 8.)

3) Provides that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people, and prohibits the federal government from "conscripting" the states to enforce federal regulatory programs. (U.S. Const., 10th Amend.)

4) Requires designated immigration officers, at the time of arrest, and as soon as it is practical and safe to do so, to identify themselves as an immigration officer who is authorized to execute an arrest and state that the person is under arrest and the reason for the arrest. (8 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 287.8 (c)(2)(iii).)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the California Values Act, which prohibits specified state and local LEAs from using agency or department money or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes, subject to specified exemptions. (Government (Gov.) Code, §§ 7282.5, 7284.6.)

2) Defines "immigration enforcement" for purposes of the California Values Act, to mean any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law, and also includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the U.S. (Gov. Code, § 7284.4, subd. (f).)

3) Makes willfully wearing, exhibiting, or using the authorized uniform, insignia, emblem, device, label, certificate card, or writing, of a law enforcement officer (including a federal officer), a member of the fire department, deputy fire marshal or search and rescue personnel, with the intent of fraudulently impersonating them or of fraudulently inducing the belief that the defendant is one of them, or who willfully and credibly impersonates that person on an internet website or by other electronic means for the purpose of defrauding another, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to six months, by a fine of $1,000, or both. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §§ 538d, subd. (a); 538e, subd. (a); 538h, subd. (a); Pen. Code, § 19.)

4) Requires uniformed police officers to wear a badge, nameplate, or other device which bears clearly on its face the identification number or name of the officer. (Pen. Code, § 830.10.)

5) Provides that, except as specified, a law enforcement officer, including a federal officer, operating in California that is not uniformed, and therefore not required to clearly display identification pursuant to Section 830.10, shall visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number or both name and badge number when performing their enforcement duties, a violation of which is punishable as a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, § 13654.)

6) Requires a law enforcement agency operating in California to maintain and publicly post a written policy on the visible identification of sworn personnel, which must include, among other elements, a requirement that all sworn personnel visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing enforcement duties. (Gov. Code, § 7288, subd. (a).)

7) Provides that a law enforcement agency operating in California must maintain and public post a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings, and that the policy must include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

   a) A purpose statement affirming the agency's commitment to transparency, accountability, public trust; restricting the use of facial coverings to specific and limited circumstances; the principle that generalized and undifferentiated fear and apprehension about officer safety is not sufficient to justify the use of facial coverings.

   b) A requirement that all sworn personnel not use a facial covering when performing their duties.

c) A list of narrowly tailored exemptions for the following:

i. Active undercover operations or assignments authorized by supervising personnel or court order.

ii. Tactical operations where protective gear is required for physical safety.

iii. Applicable law governing occupational health and safety.

iv. Protection of identity during prosecution.

d) A provision stating that opaque facial coverings shall only be used when no other reasonable alternative exists and the necessity is documented.

e) A provision stating that a supervisor shall not knowingly allow a peace officer under their supervision to violate state law or agency policy limiting the use of a facial covering. (Gov. Code, § 7289, subds. (a), (b).)

8) Provides that a facial covering policy adopted pursuant to the above shall be deemed consistent with existing requirements regarding criminal penalties for improper use of facial coverings by law enforcement unless a verified written challenge to its legality is submitted to the head of the agency by a member of the public, an oversight body, or a local governing authority, at which time the agency shall be afforded 90 days to correct any deficiencies in the policy. (Gov. Code, § 7289, subd. (c).)

9) Provides that if, after 90 days, the agency has failed to adequately address the complaint, the complaining party may proceed to a court of competent jurisdiction for a judicial determination of the agency's exemption to the criminal prohibition against the improper use of facial coverings, and that the agency's policy and its employees' exemptions shall remain in effect unless a court rules the agency's policy is not in compliance with that prohibition and all potential appeals to higher courts have been exhausted by the agency. (Ibid.)

10) Defines "law enforcement agency," for the purposes of the above requirement regarding law enforcement facial covering policies, as any entity of a city, county, or other local agency that employs a peace officer, a law enforcement agency of another state, and any federal law enforcement agency. (Gov. Code, § 7289, subd. (d).)

11) Prohibits a law enforcement officers from wearing a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties. (Pen. Code, § 185.5.)

12) Specifies that a "facial covering," for the purposes of the prohibition in number (11) does not include any of the following:

    a) A translucent face shield or clear mask that does not conceal the wearer's facial identity and is used in compliance with the employing agency's policy and procedures regarding facial coverings.

    b) An N95 medical mask or surgical mask to protect against transmission of disease or infection or any other mask, helmet, or device, including, but not limited to, air-purifying respirators, full or half masks, or self-contained breathing apparatus necessary to protect against exposure to any toxin, gas, smoke, inclement weather, or any other hazardous or harmful environmental condition.

    c) A mask, helmet, or device, including, but not limited to, a self-contained breathing apparatus, necessary for underwater use.

    d) A motorcycle helmet when worn by an officer utilizing a motorcycle or other vehicle that requires a helmet for safe operations while in the performance of their duties.

    e) Eyewear necessary to protect from the use of retinal weapons, including, but not limited to, lasers.

13) Provides that the prohibition against facial coverings does not apply to an officer subject to an exception specified in the law enforcement facial covering policy or to an officer assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team units while actively performing their SWAT responsibilities. (Pen. Code, § 185.5, subd. (c).)

14) Provides that a willful and knowing violation of this prohibition is punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor, but that this criminal penalty shall not apply to any law enforcement officer if they were acting in their capacity as an employee of the agency and the agency maintains and publicly posts, no later than January 1, 2026, a written facial covering policy. (Pen. Code, § 185.5, subds. (d), (f).)

15) Provides that notwithstanding any other law, any person who is found to have committed an assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process, or malicious prosecution, while wearing a facial covering in a knowing and willful violation of this prohibition shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or immunity for their tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability, and shall be liable to that individual for the greater of actual damages

or statutory damages of not less than $10,000, whichever is greater. (Pen. Code, § 185.5, subd. (g).)

16) Defines "facial covering," for the purposes of this prohibition as well as the provisions requiring law enforcement facial covering policies, as any opaque mask, garment, helmet, headgear, or other item that conceals or obscures the facial identity of an individual, including, but not limited to, a balaclava, tactical mask, gator, ski mask, and any similar type of facial covering or face-shielding item. (Pen. Code, § 185.5, subd. (b)(1); Gov. Code, § 7289, subd. (d)(1).)

17) Defines "law enforcement officer" for the purposes of this prohibition as a peace officer employed by a city, county, or other local agency as well as any officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency or any law enforcement agency of another state or any person acting on behalf of a federal law enforcement agency or law enforcement agency of another state. (Pen. Code, § 185.5, subd. (e).)

This bill:

1) Modifies the requirement that a law enforcement agency operating in California maintain and publicly post a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings, as follows:

   a) Extends the deadline for a law enforcement agency to maintain and post this policy from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027;

   b) Expands the list of narrowly tailored exemptions that the policy must contain to include surveillance operations related to enforcement of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant to the Fish and Game Code, or a federal agency or officer conducting surveillance operations pursuant to similar federal law;

   c) Clarifies that the existing exemption that the policy must include for protection of identity during prosecution includes protection of identity during prosecution immediately before and after appearances; and

   d) Expands the definition of a ″law enforcement agency,″ for purposes of which agencies must maintain and post this policy, to include a state entity that employs a peace officer, as defined.

2) Modifies the prohibition against a law enforcement officer wearing a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties, as follows:

   a) Specifies that certain items that are exempt from the definition of a ″facial covering″ can constitute a facial covering if they are combined in a manner intended to conceal or obscure an officer's identity.

   b) Adds the following items to the list of equipment that is exempt from the definition of a ″facial covering″:

      i. A helmet with a clear face shield or visor that does not conceal the officer's face, if the equipment is worn solely for safety purposes and not for the purpose of concealing an officer's identity;

      ii. Sunglasses; and,

      iii. A helmet, protective mask, or other head or face protection required during academy or in-service training activities, only for the duration of the training activity, and provided the equipment is worn solely for safety purposes and not for the purpose of concealing identity.

   c) Specifies that the exemption from the definition of a ″facial covering″ for a helmet worn by an officer utilizing a motorcycle includes the wearing of such a helmet after the officer has dismounted the motorcycle or other vehicle, if they reasonably intend to utilize the motorcycle or other vehicle again imminently.

   d) Defines ″opaque,″ for purposes of what constitutes an opaque mask to include, but not be limited to, dark-tinted, mirrored, smoked, or reflective materials that substantially obscure or distort facial visibility.

   e) Expands the definition of ″law enforcement officer,″ for purposes of which officers are subject to this facial covering prohibition, to include a peace officer, as defined, that is employed by a state agency.

   f) Removes a provision of law stating that any person who is found to have committed an assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process, or malicious prosecution, while wearing a facial covering in a knowing and willful violation of the facial covering prohibition shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or immunity for their tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability, and shall be liable to that individual for the greater

of actual damages or statutory damages of not less than $10,000, whichever is greater.

g) Provides, instead, that any person who is found liable for false imprisonment or false arrest shall be liable for statutory damages of not less than $10,000, or actual damages, whichever is greater, if the trier of fact further finds, at the time of the conduct giving rise to liability, that the person knowingly and willfully concealed their identity through the use of a facial covering.

h) States that nothing in the facial covering prohibition statute shall be construed to abrogate any privilege, justification, or defense based on lawful authority, as specified, or a defense that an arrest was lawful because it was made in obedience to a warrant that appeared valid on its face, reasonably appeared to authorize that arrest, and reasonably appeared to identify or describe the person arrested.

i) States that neither of the two preceding paragraphs preserve or incorporate any immunity from civil liability or no cause of action provisions.

3) Includes a severability clause.

4) Makes technical and conforming changes

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

> One-time costs, minor in the aggregate, to state entities employing peace officers to develop, adopt, and publicly post the written facial covering policy required by this bill by January 1, 2027 (General Fund, various special funds). The California Highway Patrol, the largest affected entity, reports minor costs, and the Department of Justice reports no fiscal impact.
>
> Potential court cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, to adjudicate misdemeanor prosecutions for violations of the facial covering prohibition by state peace officers (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). Because a state entity may shield officers from criminal liability by adopting the required facial covering policy, criminal filings may be limited, if any. Although trial courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a need for increased General

Fund support. The 2025-26 budget includes $117.3 million General Fund to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund.

Potential court cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, to adjudicate civil actions against state peace officers for enumerated torts committed while wearing a facial covering in knowing and willful violation of the prohibition (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

Prosecutors Alliance Action (co-source)
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (co-source)
Mexican-American Legal Defense and Ed Fund (co-source)
SEIU California (cos-source)
ACLU California Action
Alameda County Office of Education
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Community Foundation
California Faculty Association
California Public Defenders Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, INC.
California School Employees Association
California Teachers Association
Californians for Safety and Justice
Central American Resource Center of California
CFT–AFT, AFL-CIO
City of Alameda
City of Oakland
City of Pasadena
City of West Hollywood
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Courage California
Drug Policy Alliance
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Equality California
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Gente Organizada
IKAR
Indivisible Westside Los Angeles
Initiate Justice
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Inland Empire Labor Council, Afl-cio
Inland Empire United
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Latino Community Foundtion
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Democratic Party
Peace and Freedom Party of California
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
Public Counsel
Rubicon Programs
San Bernardino Community Service Center
San Francisco Public Defender
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Smart Justice California
St. Josephs Justice Center
UnidosUS
United Domestic Workers/afscme Local 3930
Vision Y Compromiso
Western Center on Law & Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals

California Fraternal Order of Police
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Peace Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California Statewide Law Enforcement Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fraternal Order of Police
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Long Beach Police Officers Association
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs Association
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association
Santa Ana Police Officers Association

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 44-22, 8/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Papan, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Pacheco, Patterson, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ávila Farías, Bains, Calderon, Krell, Nguyen, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Soria, Valencia, Wilson

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 21:33:06

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1017
Author: Reyes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 3/18/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 4/16/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar, Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Pupils: foster youth: access to pupil records

SOURCE: Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

DIGEST: This bill expands the existing list of individuals to whom a school district, if requested, must provide student record access to include a pupil aged 14 or older who is a foster youth, as specified.

Assembly Amendments 1) clarify that both foster care and homeless youth must be 14 years of age or older to access their educational records and 2) add double-jointing language to ensure that the amendments made by both this bill and AB 2478 (Schultz, 2026) to Education Code Section 49076 become operative if both bills are enacted, and this bill is enacted last.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits federal funds from being provided to any educational agency or institution which has a policy or practice of permitting the release of a pupil's educational records to any individual, agency, or organization without the written consent of the pupil's parents. FERPA exempts from the general parental consent requirement certain kinds of disclosures, including disclosures to state and local officials for the purposes of conducting truancy proceedings, a criminal investigation, auditing or evaluating an educational program, or in relation to the application for financial aid. (United States Code (USC), Title 20, Section 1232g and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Sections 99.31)

2) The federal Uninterrupted Scholars Act amended FERPA to require school districts to allow access to pupil records to an agency caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency, or tribal organization, who has the right to access a pupil's case plan, when such agency or organization is legally responsible for the care and protection of the pupil. The Uninterrupted Scholars Act prohibits the records or information from being disclosed by the agency or organization except to an individual or entity engaged in addressing the pupil's educational needs and authorized by such agency or organization to receive such disclosure and the disclosure is consistent with applicable state or tribal laws protecting the confidentiality of a pupil's education records. (20 USC § 1232g(b)(L))

Existing state law:

1) Defines "foster youth" to mean any of the following:

   a) A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court, as specified.

   b) A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 602 of the WIC, has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court, as specified, and is in foster care, as specified.

   c) A nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, who satisfies specified criteria.

d) A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court pursuant to the tribal court's jurisdiction in accordance with the tribe's law.

e) A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as specified. (Education Code (EC) § 42238.01)

2) Authorizes foster family agencies with jurisdiction over currently enrolled or former students to access records of grades and transcripts, and any individualized education program that may have been developed by school districts or private schools of those students. (EC § 49069.3)

3) Prohibits a school district from permitting access to pupil records to a person without parental consent or under judicial order, with some exceptions including a county placing agency; an agency caseworker or other representative of a child welfare agency; a pupil who is 16 years or older and has completed grade 10; or a pupil 14 years of age who is a homeless child or youth, or an unaccompanied youth, as defined. (EC § 49076)

4) Requires, when a child is placed in foster care, the case plan for each child to include a summary of the health and education information or records, and include specified information. Existing law also requires the health and education summary to be provided to the caregiver within a specified timeframe after placement. (WIC § 16010)

5) States legislative intent that caregivers who are informed of the child's educational, medical, dental, and mental health history and current needs are better able to meet those needs and address the effects of trauma, increasing placement stability and improving permanency outcomes. (WIC § 827.11)

6) Establishes a number of rights for students in foster care. Among them are rights to immediate enrollment, rights to have educational records transferred in a timely manner, rights to remain in students' schools of origin, rights to exemptions from locally adopted graduation requirements in excess of state requirements, and the right to have partial credit awarded for coursework. (WIC §16001.9)

This bill requires school districts to provide foster youth aged 14 and older access to their student records, at their request.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Foster youth face a number of obstacles across their lives beginning at an early age. Far too often, these obstacles lead to educational disparities that impact their ability to succeed and thrive after they transition out of the system. According to the California Department of Education (CDE), only 60% of foster youth graduate from high school statewide, compared to 86% of non-foster youth. Frequent school changes compound these challenges—children in foster care move schools an average of eight times, losing up to six months of learning with each move.

"Currently, homeless students and unaccompanied youth aged 14 or older have access to their education records. This access helps mitigate disruptions caused by frequent school changes and lack of consistent adult guidance. However, that is not the case for foster students as they can only access their school records if they are 16 years or older. SB 1017 would grant foster youth the same rights provided to homeless students and unaccompanied youth, the ability to access their school records at 14 years old. Timely access to records empowers students to make informed decisions during critical transitions and reinforces the state's commitment to ensuring that foster youth are not disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control. At the forefront of equity is protecting and advocating for our most vulnerable population, and SB 1017 is a step forward in ensuring foster youth have the resources they need to live a successful life."

Existing authorizations. Current law recognizes two special circumstances under which pupils age 14 and older should have access to their educational records—when the pupil has been identified as an unaccompanied youth or a homeless youth. This authorization originated from the concern that unaccompanied or homeless youth who do not have parents who are willing or able to consent to a school district sharing their educational records would not be able to access services such as Boys and Girls Clubs, tutoring programs, and legal services offered by non-school district agencies. Educational records are vital in these circumstances because tutors and other service providers need information such as test scores, credit progress, and special education context in order to provide specialized support.

Currently, foster youth aged 16 or younger can have educational records accessed on their behalf by authorized individuals such as foster parents or resource families. However, due to issues with school mobility and changing care placements, they may experience delays in record requests which can lead to service interruptions and uncertainty in graduation preparation.

This bill brings the education record access authorization for foster youth aged 14 and older into alignment with their peers who have been identified as unaccompanied or homeless youth.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Potentially reimbursable Proposition 98 General Fund costs, likely minor, to local education agencies to provide additional student records. These costs would be reimbursable only to the extent a local agency files a claim and the Commission on State Mandates determines it is a reimbursable cost.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools (source)
Alameda County Office of Education
Association of California School Administrators
Children's Law Center of California
Fresno County Office of Education
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
San Mateo County Office of Education

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 16:43:21

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1024
Author: Menjivar (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Firefighter postpartum and recovery leave

SOURCE: California Professional Firefighters

DIGEST: This bill requires a fire department to provide a paid leave of absence of up to 26 weeks to a requesting firefighter who is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

Assembly Amendments struck the provisions of this bill as it left the Senate which would have entitled firefighters with up to 26 weeks of fully paid postpartum and recovery leave for birth, stillbirth or miscarriage of a child to instead entitle firefighters to this time only when the leave is associated with a disability due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law establishes the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to provide employees, working for an employer with 50 or more employees, the right to take up to 12 weeks of job-protected, unpaid time off work for the birth or adoption of a child, due to a serious health condition of the employee, for an exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's close relative is a military member on active duty, and for the employee to care for a close relative with a serious health condition. (28 United States Code (U.S.C.) §2601 et seq., §2611)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) making it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to refuse to grant a request from an eligible employee to take up to a total of 12 weeks off in any 12-month period for specified family care and medical leave. Defines "family care and medical leave," for purposes of CFRA, to mean taking leave to care for a new child; to care for a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner who has a serious health condition; to take leave because of the employee's own serious health condition; or for a qualifying exigency related to the employee's close family's active duty as a member of the Armed Forces, as specified. Provides that CFRA provisions only apply to employers with five or more employees, and to employees who have held their job for at least a year and worked at least 1,250 hours in the previous 12-month period. (Government Code §12945.2)

2) Under Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL) provisions, makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to refuse to allow an employee disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition to take a leave for a reasonable period of time *not to exceed four months* and thereafter return to work. The employee is entitled to utilize any accrued vacation leave during this period of time. Also makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to refuse to provide reasonable accommodation for an employee for a condition related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, if the employee so requests, and with the advice of the employee's health care provider. (Government Code §12945)

3) Provides, through the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program, short-term wage replacement benefits to eligible workers who are unable to work due to a non-work-related illness or injury and for a maximum of 52 weeks. SDI benefits can be used for an illness or injury, either physical or mental, which

prevents an employee from performing their regular and customary work and includes elective surgery, pregnancy, childbirth, or other medical conditions. (Unemployment Insurance Code §2601-3308)

4) Provides, through the Paid Family Leave (PFL) program, a component of SDI, eligible employees up to eight weeks of wage replacement benefits within a 12-month period to workers who need to take time off work to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, or domestic partner; to bond with a minor child within one year of the birth or placement of the child in connection with foster care or adoption; or to participate in a qualifying event because of a family member's military deployment. (Unemployment Insurance Code §3301)

5) Through the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to refuse to grant a request by any employee to take up to five days of *reproductive loss leave* following a reproductive loss event. Defines "reproductive loss event" to mean the day or, for a multiple-day event, the final day of a failed adoption, failed surrogacy, miscarriage, stillbirth, or an unsuccessful assisted reproduction. If an employee experiences more than one reproductive loss event within a 12-month period, an employer shall not be obligated to grant a total amount of reproductive loss leave time in excess of 20 days within a 12-month period. (Government Code §12945.6)

This bill:

1) Requires a fire department to provide a paid leave of absence of up to 26 weeks to a firefighter who requests leave because the firefighter is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

2) Specifies that the paid leave applies to an active firefighter member who has at least 1,250 hours of service with the fire department in the 12-month period before the date on which the paid leave begins. However, clarifies that there are no eligibility requirements, including minimum hours worked or length of service, before an employee may take unpaid, job-protected leave for disability due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition as provided in existing law, as specified.

3) Authorizes a fire department, as a condition of granting or continuing the paid leave, to require the firefighter to provide written medical certification from the

firefighter's health care provider documenting that the leave is required because of a disability by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, and stating the anticipated start date and duration of the leave.

4) For purposes of this paid leave, requires that:

   a) It be provided with full pay, except as specified, at the firefighter's regular rate of pay set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement and in accordance with their normal pay schedule.

   b) It run concurrently with job-protected leave under the existing Pregnancy Disability Leave provisions or the reasonable accommodation provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, or both, as specified.

   c) Notwithstanding any other law, the fire department maintain group health coverage for a firefighter on leave for the duration of the leave and at the same level and under the same conditions that coverage would have been provided had the firefighter not taken the paid leave.

   d) All benefits, including retirement contributions, seniority, promotional eligibility, and step increases, to continue to accrue during the paid leave as if the firefighter were actively working.

   e) A firefighter returning from paid leave be restored to their prior position or a position of equivalent rank, pay, schedule, station assignment, and promotional trajectory.

5) Specifies that compensation during the paid leave must include retirement fund contributions by the fire department and the firefighter, and the firefighters must earn full service credit during the paid leave.

6) Prescribes the manner in which the paid leave must be calculated for part-time firefighters.

7) Prohibits a fire department from requiring a firefighter to exhaust paid sick leave, vacation, or compensatory leave time before or while taking the paid leave under this section.

8) Specifies that these provisions do not preempt or limit any collective bargaining agreement, state law or policy, or local law or policy providing greater rights or benefits.

9) Authorizes a fire department to count benefits provided to a firefighter under another law, employer-provided paid leave policy, or disability insurance plan that are payable, as provided, other than vacation, sick, or other compensated leave time, toward the requirements of this bill. Additionally, specifies that full satisfaction is met if the fire department ensures that the firefighter receives their full pay during the leave of absence, as required, without a reduction to the firefighter's vacation, sick, or other compensated leave time balances.

10) Apply the above-described provisions to active firefighting members of the following fire departments:

    a) A fire department of a city, county, city and county, district, or other public or municipal corporation or political subdivision.

    b) A fire department of the California State University.

    c) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

    d) A county forestry or firefighting department or unit.

    e) A fire department of the University of California is requested to comply with the provisions of this bill.

Background

Parental leave is proven to benefit families and communities by improving long-term health outcomes for mothers and children, decreasing stress for caregivers and new parents, encouraging equitable co-parenting, and reducing income volatility. Whether or not the parental leave is paid or has some wage replacement component is often the deciding factor on whether or not, and for how long, an employee is likely to take time to care for themselves and their families while financially providing for them.

California has several medical leaves under which an employee may be able to take leave from work to care for their illness, that of specified family members or for the bonding with a new child. Below is a summary of some and their eligibility requirements.

	CA Family Rights Act (CFRA) *Job Protected*	**Paid Family Leave (PFL)** *No Job Protection*	**Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL)** *Job Protected*	**Reproductive Loss Leave** *Job Protected*	**Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)** *Job Protected*	**SB 1024 (This bill)**

Employers Covered	Five or more employees	One or more (employee pays, employee gets)	Five or more employees	Public employers of any size/ private employers with five or more employees	50+ employees within 75-mile radius	All specified fire departments
Employee Eligibility	Worked 1,250 hours in prior 12 months	Once employee earns $300 in base period for fund contribution	Immediate as necessary	Worked with the employer at least 30 days	Worked 1,250 in prior 12 months	Worked 1,250 hours of service in prior 12 months
Reason for Leave	Employee serious health condition; seriously ill family member care; bond with newborn or newly placed adopted or foster child	Care for seriously ill family member; bond with a child within 1 year of birth, foster care or adoption placement; qualifying event because of a family member's military deployment	Disability due to pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition	Miscarriage, stillbirth, failed adoption, failed surrogacy, or unsuccessful assisted reproduction	Bond with a child w/in 1 year of birth, adoption or foster care placement OR due to serious pregnancy-related health condition	Disability due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition
Length of Leave	12 weeks in 12-month period	8 weeks in 12-month period	Up to 4 months	5 days, nonconsecutive, per loss event (max of 20 days w/in 12 months)	Up to 12 weeks	Up to 26 weeks pending medical certification
Paid or Unpaid	Unpaid, may run concurrent with other paid leave	Partial wage replacement (70-90%, depending on income)	Unpaid, may run concurrent with SDI for partial wage replacement	Unpaid, employee can use vacation, personal leave, paid sick leave, or comp time	Unpaid, employee can use vacation, paid sick time	Fully paid, prohibits exhausting sick leave, vacation or comp time
Continued Health Coverage	Yes	No	Yes	Unspecified	Yes	Yes

Points of note regarding these leaves:

- When both state and federal laws apply, the employee receives the benefit of the more protective law.
- PFL provides benefit payments but not job protection; however, the employee's job may be protected if taken concurrently with FMLA or CFRA.
- There is no pay associated with the FMLA and CFRA, other than what the employee has earned in other accrued leaves that may apply.

- Employees may only be eligible for the PFL program if they are covered by the SDI program. SDI is employee funded. If an employee does not pay into the SDI program, they are not eligible to receive disability benefits PFL.
- Some state employees may be able to access Nonindustrial Disability Insurance (NDI), which is a partial wage replacement benefit for state employees. NDI provides income to eligible employees when they lose wages due to a non-work-related disability. NDI is an employer paid benefit that covers excluded employees and rank-and-file employees in bargaining units 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18, and 19.

Need for this bill? According to the author: "Firefighters who wish to take additional leave face the impossible decision between their own health, the health of their newborn, and their family's financial stability. Unfortunately, many have faced this choice and found that they have no option but to leave a career they love. The lack of supportive pregnancy and maternity policies has significant impacts on both initial recruitment and long-term retention following childbirth, deeply impacting the ability of fire departments to sustainably build a diverse and representative fire service. Every firefighter who leaves represents a loss of the substantial time, funding, and effort invested in their training. SB 1024 promotes fair, accessible, and sustainable careers in the fire service by establishing a statewide uniform paid postpartum and recovery policy for firefighters who give birth."

[NOTE: Please see the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee analysis on this bill for more background information and information on prior legislation.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Cal FIRE anticipates ongoing costs (General Fund) associated with providing this expanded benefit to firefighters but asserts it is unable to quantify these costs because it cannot reliably predict how many employees will utilize this benefit in a given year. Nonetheless, the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) estimates the bill likely results in ongoing annual costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for eligible Bargaining Unit 8 state employees working at Cal FIRE. However, to the extent that the extended leave provided by the bill results in more female firefighters returning to work instead of abandoning firefighting employment due to insufficient leave time the cost

savings from reduced recruitment and training of new firefighters could lower total costs.

2) Ongoing General Fund costs of $400,000 annually for the Labor Commissioner's Office (under the Department of Industrial Relations) to facilitate the creation of a parental leave program.

3) Ongoing costs in the tens of thousands to low hundreds of thousands of dollars (General Fund) for the University of California for campuses with fire departments to provide this expanded benefit.

4) No fiscal effect to the California State University (CSU) as CSU is protected by local city and county fire departments, not firefighters directly employed by the CSU.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Professional Firefighters (Source)
Cal Fire Local 2881
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Teachers Association
Health Access California
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Teamsters California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the sponsors of the measure, the California Professional Firefighters:

"It is imperative that the fire service not only continue its existing work but take new strides towards expanding its ranks to all who wish to serve. Firefighters should not have to choose between starting a family and pursuing their careers or be forced to step aside in order to protect themselves and their infants from harm. Given the unique, dangerous, and physically demanding nature of the job, a unified policy ensuring that all firefighters can recover and bond with their child will protect existing personnel and provide more flexibility and security for those who are considering a career in public service."

Prepared by: Alma Perez-Schwab / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/26/26 15:27:38

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1046
Author: Blakespear (D) and Padilla (D)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo
NO VOTE RECORDED: Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/20/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Becker, Grove

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Occupational safety: transboundary pollution

SOURCE: SEIU California

DIGEST: This bill requires the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), on or before January 1, 2030, to propose to the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Standards Board) a standard that protects the health and safety of employees who risk high or prolonged exposure to transboundary pollution in outdoor occupational environments, as specified.

Assembly Amendments 1) clarify the definition of transboundary pollution; 2) specify that Cal/OSHA shall submit a standard on transboundary pollution to the Standards Board for its *consideration and possible* adoption, rather than for its

review and adoption; 3) require Cal/OSHA's proposed standard to apply to high-risk employees who work within a 10-mile radius of specified areas; 4) authorize, rather than require, the proposed standard to include specified criteria; and 5) make technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, under the California Occupational Safety and Health Act, an employer to:

   a) Furnish employment and a place of employment that is safe and healthful.

   b) Furnish and use safety devices and safeguards, as well as adopt and use practices, means, methods, operations, and processes that are reasonably adequate to render employment and the place of employment safe and healthful.

   c) Do everything reasonably necessary to protect the life, safety, and health of employees. (Labor Code §6300 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to, among other things, propose, administer, and enforce occupational safety and health standards. (Labor Code §6300 et seq.)

3) Establishes the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Standards Board), within DIR, to promote, adopt, and maintain reasonable and enforceable standards that will ensure a safe and healthful workplace for workers. (Labor Code §140-147.6)

4) Requires Cal/OSHA to enforce all occupational safety and health standards adopted by the Standards Board, as specified. (Labor Code §142 and §144.5)

5) Stipulates that in promulgating standards dealing with toxic materials or harmful physical agents, the Standards Board shall adopt standards to prevent employees from suffering adverse health effects even if these employees have regular exposure to a regulated hazard (Labor Code §144.6).

This bill:

1) Requires Cal/OSHA, on or before January 1, 2030, to propose to the Standards Board, for its consideration and possible adoption, a standard that protects the health and safety of employees who risk high or prolonged exposure to transboundary pollution in outdoor occupational environments.

2) Provides that the standard shall apply to lifeguards, park rangers, and other employees that Cal/OSHA determines are at high risk, who work within a 10-mile radius of the boundary of any of the following:

   a) The Tijuana River Valley Regional Park.

   b) The Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

   c) The Tijuana River.

   d) The New River.

3) Provides that the standard described in 1) may include all of the following:

   a) Personal protective equipment, which may include, but not be limited to, respiratory protection and protective attire.

   b) Medical surveillance, which may include, but not be limited to, medical examination rights, medical procedures, and reporting requirements.

   c) Hazard communication, which may include, but not be limited to, notice of anticipated wet weather or other high-exposure events and any available data on pollution exposure conditions.

   d) Reporting and recordkeeping practices. In developing these practices, Cal/OSHA shall consider, at minimum, both of the following:

      i) Incident or exposure report forms for use by employees.

      ii) Maintaining data on exposure threshold exceedances, health-related symptoms developed following job duties, sick leave related to exposure incidents, and weather events exacerbating transboundary pollution.

   e) Training for employees and supervisors that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

      i) Information on workplace hazards relating to the regional environmental conditions.

ii) Potential health effects of exposure to transboundary pollution, including related symptoms.

iii) Use of personal protective equipment.

iv) Reporting practices.

4) Provides that 3) does not limit the authority of Cal/OSHA to develop a standard, or the authority of the Standards Board to adopt a standard, that is broader in scope or broader in application than required by these provisions.

5) Requires Cal/OSHA to consider identifying an exposure threshold for hydrogen sulfide at which acute or chronic health effects occur to reference in the standards and may consider exposure thresholds for other relevant pollutants.

6) Authorizes Cal/OSHA to develop the standards described in 1) in consultation with lifeguards, park rangers, trade and labor unions, cities, counties, private and public sector employers, air districts, local environmental and public health agencies, universities and academic institutions, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Air Resources Board, the State Water Resources Control Board, regional water quality control boards, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

7) Authorizes the Standards Board to adopt emergency regulations to implement these provisions, as specified.

8) Defines "lifeguard" as a person actively employed as a lifeguard by a city, county, city and county, district, or other public or municipal corporation or political subdivision, or a person actively employed as a state lifeguard by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

9) Defines "park ranger" as a person that enforces park rules and regulations and is actively employed as a park ranger by a city, county, city and county, district, or other public or municipal corporation or political subdivision, or is actively employed as a state park ranger by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

10) Defines "transboundary pollution" as environmental pollutants or toxins contaminating state water or air that originate from Baja California, enter through the Tijuana River, the Pacific Ocean, or the New River, and threaten the health and safety of the public or environment.

11) Makes various findings and declarations related to the Tijuana River Valley and transboundary pollution.

Background

Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Standards Board). The Standards Board, within Cal/OSHA, is the only agency in the state authorized to adopt, amend, or repeal occupational safety and health standards or orders. Its mission is to promote, adopt, and maintain reasonable and enforceable standards that ensure a safe and healthful workplace. The Standards Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Two members are selected from labor, two members from management, one member from occupational safety, one member from occupational health, and one member from the general public. Among other responsibilities, the Standards Board 1) adopts and maintains standards; 2) considers petitions for new or revised standards proposed by any interested person; and 3) grants permanent variances from standards. To carry out its duties, the Standards Board holds monthly meetings throughout California.

The Standards Board must adopt standards at least as effective as federal ones for all health and safety issues that have federal standards promulgated under the Occupational Safety and health Act of 1970. Additionally, the Standards Board maintains standards unique to the state, like those for amusement rides, aerial passenger tramways, and heat illness. Depending on its scope and application, standards can apply to state and local government and private sector workplace operations.

The Administrative Procedure Act governs the public hearing and adoption process. After a rulemaking action is deemed necessary, proposed standard changes are developed by either the Standard Board's staff or Cal/OSHA's staff, generally with the assistance and recommendations of an advisory committee. Advisory committees consist of representatives from industry, labor, the public, and other interested groups. If the changes are related to federal standards, the proposal is reviewed by Federal OSHA staff. The proposal is then scheduled for hearing at one of the Board's monthly meetings, so that written and oral testimony can be solicited. Following the public hearing, all testimony is returned to the originating staff (either the Standards Board staff or Cal/OSHA) for review. When all comments and testimony have been addressed by either modifying the proposal or providing a satisfactory explanation for rejection of suggested changes, the Standards Board's staff schedules the proposed standard for consideration and adoption at its next meeting. Following adoption, a copy of the rulemaking file is

sent to the Office of Administrative Law. After approval, the standards are published in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations.

The Tijuana River Valley and Transboundary Pollution. Every day the Tijuana River carries millions of gallons of untreated sewage, industrial waste, and contaminated runoff across the U.S.-Mexico border. The river flows through Tijuana, Mexico and into the United States via the Tijuana River Valley in southern San Diego County, before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. Factories and shanty towns in Tijuana that aren't connected to the city's sewage system are primarily responsible for the pollution. Although this binational problem dates back decades, explosive population growth in Tijuana, aging wastewater treatment plants in both the U.S. and Mexico, and climate change have exacerbated pollution.

Communities near the river suffer adverse health and economic impacts. Scientists have detected high levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air, which can cause headaches, fatigue, skin infections, anxiety, and respiratory and gastrointestinal problems. All of which are symptoms that residents near the river have complained of for years. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly half of the 40,900 households in the southern San Diego County region have experienced health problems most likely attributable to the pollution. The Office of the Naval Inspector General found that in 2025, more than 1,100 Navy recruits contracted gastrointestinal illnesses after training in southern San Diego waters. On top of the health issues, the contaminated ocean water and hydrogen sulfide also destabilize local economies that rely on tourism. Imperial Beach has been closed for over 1,300 consecutive days and Coronado Beach closes intermittently due to contamination.

There are no overnight solutions that will alleviate health issues and reopen beaches. Instead, officials from the U.S. and Mexico will need to work together to expand sewage treatment plants, test water quality, and survey impacted residents to understand health issues. Despite the Trump Administration's cuts to other federal programs, money has continued to flow for Tijuana River cleanup. In July of 2025, the U.S. and Mexico signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending the flow of raw sewage into the Tijuana River. Under the deal, Mexico agreed to complete an allocation of $93 million toward sanitation infrastructure and complete all projects by December 31, 2027, and the U.S. agreed to release funds for water infrastructure improvements on the border. A subsequent agreement, known as Minute 333, was signed in December of 2025.

SB 1046. The prior legislation section details the Legislature's long history of directing Cal/OSHA to develop and propose to the Standards Board various health and safety standards. SB 1046 would continue this practice by requiring Cal/OSHA, on or before January 1, 2030, to propose to the Standards Board a standard that protects the health and safety of employees who risk high or prolonged exposure to transboundary pollution in outdoor occupational environments, as specified. The measure would also authorize the Cal/OSHA to consider identifying an exposure threshold for hydrogen sulfide at which acute or chronic health effects occur to reference in the adopted standard and to consider exposure thresholds for other relevant pollutants.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1181 (Haney, Chapter 392, Statutes of 2025) required the Standards Board to consider modifying its existing safety order, by January 1, 2028, in a manner that addresses National Fire Protection Association performance standards for PPE that result in the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other hazardous substances in firefighting personal protective garments and auxiliary firefighting PPE.

AB 2975 (Gipson, Chapter 749, Statutes of 2024) required the Standards Board, by March 1, 2027, to amend the existing workplace violence prevention in health care standard to require licensed hospitals to implement a weapons detection screening policy that includes the use of weapons detection devices that automatically screen a person's body at specified entrances.

AB 1007 (Ortega, Chapter 352, Statutes of 2023) required Cal/OSHA, by December 1, 2026, to submit to the Standards Board a proposed regulation requiring a health facility to evacuate or remove plume using plume scavenging systems in all settings that employ techniques that involve the creation of plume. This bill also required the Standards Board to consider the proposed regulation for adoption by June 1, 2027.

AB 2243 (Garcia, Chapter 778, Statutes of 2022) required Cal/OSHA, before December 1, 2025, to submit to the Standards Board a proposal to consider revising the heat illness standard, as specified, and the wildfire smoke standard for farm workers to increase the protection of workers exposed to heat and smoke in outdoor settings, as specified.

SB 1167 (Mendoza, Chapter 839, Statutes of 2016) required Cal/OSHA to propose to the Standards Board for review and adoption, a standard that minimizes heat-

related illness and injury among workers working in indoor places of employment by January 1, 2019.

SB 1299 (Padilla, Chapter 842, Statutes of 2014) required the Standards Board, no later than July 1, 2016, to adopt standards that require specified hospitals to adopt a workplace violence prevention plan as part of their injury and illness prevention plan to protect health care workers and other facility personnel from aggressive and violent behavior.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Costs of approximately $1.2 million in the first year and $1.1 million each additional year of the rulemaking project to the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), as well as one-time costs of $100,000 if DIR must conduct a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment as part of the process (Occupational Safety and Health Fund). Additionally, Cal/OSHA will likely incur costs of an unknown amount for enforcement once the standard is enacted.

2) One-time costs of approximately $250,000 to OEHHA for an external contract to support identification of the hydrogen sulfide exposure threshold, to study the long-term health effects of hydrogen sulfide exposure, and work with Cal/OSHA and OSHSB to incorporate these findings into the standard (General Fund). OEHHA also estimates absorbable costs to provide public information and engage with interested parties related to this work.

3) Likely minor and absorbable costs to other named state agencies (Department of Parks and Recreation, Air Resources Board (ARB), and State Water Resources Control Board) to consult with OSHSB to develop the standard.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

SEIU California (Source)
Boys & Girls Clubs of South County
Cleanearth4kids.org
Environmental Center of San Diego
League of Women Voters of California
League of Women Voters of San Diego
Outdoor Outreach

San Diego Bird Alliance
Sierra Club
Stop the Sewage
Surfrider Foundation
Surfrider Foundation San Diego County
Teamsters California
Tijuana River Coalition
Tribal Sacred Waters, INC
Un Mar De Colores
YMCA of San Diego County

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to SEIU California:

"Transboundary pollution contaminates the air, water, and soil of border cities and counties, including San Diego, Imperial Beach, and Calexico. Every year, the Tijuana River transports millions of gallons of untreated wastewater, including sewage and industrial waste, from Tijuana into California. This decades-old crisis has plagued the South Bay coastline, resulting in 1,300 consecutive days of beach closures as of 2025…

SEIU members working near the California–Mexico border are at a heightened risk of occupational exposure to transboundary pollution. Currently, they risk illness with little to no protection or accommodations. Unlike other workplace hazards, there is currently no guidance on reporting illnesses, tracking incidents, or providing protective communication. Lifeguards and park rangers frequently experience headaches, fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain, and even bloody noses. After performing water rescues, lifeguards often require several days to recover from symptoms before they can return to work.

SB 1046 would direct the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) to propose a standard for review and adoption by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to protect the health and safety of employees exposed to transboundary pollution. By providing employers with essential tools, such as hazard communication and respiratory protection, SB 1046 would reduce illnesses among SEIU members who work to keep our outdoor spaces safe."

Prepared by: Emma Bruce / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556

8/25/26 18:47:38

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1047
Author: Niello (R) and Allen (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 3/25/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Neurodegenerative disease registry program

SOURCE: Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
End Chronic Disease, INC.

DIGEST: This bill (1) expands data collection and reporting requirements for the California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry Program (CNDRP) to include frontotemporal degeneration; (2) extends the CNDRP to January 1, 2032.

Assembly Amendments make grammatical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), under the CNDRP and until January 1, 2028, to collect data on the incidence and prevalence of neurodegenerative disease in California, including, but not limited to, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §103871 and §103871.2]

2) Allows CDPH to designate which neurodegenerative diseases must be reported and to prescribe the data collection method and data format. [HSC §103871]

3) Requires a hospital, facility, physician, or other health care provider diagnosing or treating a patient with a neurodegenerative disease to report all cases diagnosed or treated in the state to CDPH. [HSC §103871]

4) Specifies that neurodegenerative disease may include but is not limited to Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and Huntington's disease. [HSC §103871]

This bill:

1) Expands data collection and reporting requirements for the CNDRP to include frontotemporal degeneration (FTD).

2) Extends the sunset date of the CNDRP to January 1, 2032.

Background

CNDRP. The CNDRP, within CDPH's Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research Branch, was established in 2021 to collect data on the incidence of neurodegenerative disease in the state to better understand its prevalence among different populations and changes over time. The CNDRP has authority to determine which diseases must be reported. Statute requires that ALS cases be reported, and CDPH separately requires reporting for Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis. According to the CNDRP, the program began collecting data on multiple sclerosis on July 1, 2023, and has expanded reporting requirements to include Alzheimer's in July of 2025 and ALS in July of 2026. Parkinson's disease is reported via the Richard Paul Hemann California Parkinson's Disease Registry, a similar program that predates the CNDRP.

CNDRP data are obtained from patients' medical records and include their identifying information, demographic data, patient visit information, primary physician information, primary ICD-10 diagnosis code, and disease onset information. CDPH accepts data from registered providers through either manual data entry into a secure web portal or the automated electronic transfer of case files from electronic medical record systems. The data collected by CNDRP are confidential, meaning that detailed data may only be disclosed to researchers who have obtained approval from their institutional review board and have demonstrated their ability to maintain data security, other state neurodegenerative disease registries, federal neurodegenerative disease control agencies, and local health officers. The data can only be used for the stated purpose of their request. Patients and those legally authorized to obtain a patient's confidential information can also access their data.

FTD. According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, FTD (also known as frontotemporal dementia, frontotemporal disorder, frontotemporal lobar degeneration, or Pick's disease) is caused by damage to neurons in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. Neuronal damage results in progressive atrophy of the lobes, disrupting the functions associated with these regions, such as planning and decision-making, emotional regulation, memory, and language. Depending on what area of the brain is affected, patients may also display difficulty with motor control. Because FTD is progressive, an individual's symptoms will change over time as more parts of the brain are affected. FTD is diagnosed by neurological and cognitive exams and behavioral evaluations, family history and genetic testing, brain imaging, and laboratory tests that exclude the possibility of Alzheimer's, but can only be confirmed postmortem.

FTD is usually diagnosed in three different categories: behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD); primary progressive aphasia (PPA); and movement disorders. Patients diagnosed with bvFTD display changes in personality, behavior, and judgment, with or without problems with cognition or memory. Those with PPA have difficulty with speaking, reading, writing, and understanding words. PPA patients often display cognitive symptoms of dementia as the disease progresses, and occasionally display behavioral changes as well. FTD-induced movement disorders include corticobasal syndrome, progressive supranuclear palsy, FTD with parkinsonism, and FTD-ALS. Corticobasal syndrome is characterized by difficulty using hands or arms, sometimes beginning on one side of the body before progressing to both. Those with progressive supranuclear palsy have difficulty walking, balancing, and moving facial muscles, and it is characterized by a fixed stare due to trouble with eye movements.

Individuals with FTD with parkinsonism display symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease, including slowed movement, stiffness, and balance issues. FTD-ALS is a combination of bvFTD and ALS, including ALS symptoms like progressive muscle weakness and muscle jerks or wiggling. The movement disorders may also include symptoms affecting behavior, thinking, and language. According to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, an estimated 50,000-60,000 Americans have FTD. Unlike Alzheimer's and many other dementias, FTD primarily affects middle-aged individuals. About 60% of diagnoses occur between 45 and 64 years of age, when many are still working and caring for family members. The life expectancy for those with FTD ranges from two to 20 years from the onset of symptoms.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

> This bill will direct the CNDRP to collect data on FTD and require hospitals and health care professionals to report cases. FTD is a terminal and incurable neurodegenerative disease, causing impairments to speech, personality, behavior, and movement, and constitutes a major public health concern. FTD represents an estimated 5-15% of dementia cases and is the most common form of dementia for people under 60. It is reported that 75% of physicians in California already use the necessary record-keeping system. This bill will help prioritize FTD so researchers can better identify and treat the FTD community, speeding research into the causes, treatments, and hopefully cures for FTD, as well as informing patients of clinical trials, a critical tool for those dealing with this disease. This bill also extends the sunset date to continue the work on behalf of other previously approved neurodegenerative diseases.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, CDPH estimates General Fund costs of approximately $2.7 million per year in fiscal years (FYs) 2027-28 through 2031-32 to implement provisions of this bill. CDPH states these costs include the following:

- Staff: 7.3 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to support programmatic functions, two FTEs for information technology support, and an additional FTE to incorporate FTD into data collection requirements. Staff serve as subject matter experts, perform data management system (DMS) activities and analysis, create

datasets, conduct outreach, and provide technical assistance to data providers, associations, and partners to ensure data accuracy and to meet the statutory mandate.

- Information technology: $400,000 to support the CNDR DMS, including costs associated with the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange manual entry web portal, integration and data validation tool, associated software, and maintenance and operations of the DMS.

- Promulgating regulations: $63,000.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (co-source)
End Chronic Disease, INC. (co-source)
ALS Association
ALS Network
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
Biocom California
Bluefield Project
California Life Sciences Association
Cure MAPT FTD
Cure GRN
Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Eleven individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The co-sources of this bill, the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) and End Chronic Disease, support the CNDRP, described as a vital and cost-effective resource for researchers. End Chronic Disease shares that disease registries are important medical research infrastructure, allowing researchers to recruit patients for clinical trials, evaluate treatment effectiveness, understand disease progression, and develop precision medicine approaches. They hope that expanded reporting for those with frontotemporal degeneration can help identify trends earlier, recognize clusters of disease, improve screening recommendations, and support earlier intervention. AFTD and a coalition of ALS, FTD, and Parkinson's disease organizations write

that it is their goal to ensure every person living with a neurodegenerative disease is seen, counted, and supported through data-informed public policy and research investment. The interconnectedness of many neurodegenerative diseases means improving data collection for one condition strengthens understanding across the field. Several supporters highlight that the explicit inclusion of FTD and other dementias within the definition of neurodegenerative disease reflects the current state of the science around the interconnectedness of neurodegenerative diseases and emphasize that comprehensive data collection will better inform research, care, resource allocation, and eventually, outcomes for patients. California Life Sciences writes that the existing registry infrastructure uses electronic medical records and established reporting mechanisms to collect data without creating unnecessary administrative burden.

Prepared by: Natalie Gehred / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 16:47:03

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1048
Author: Becker (D), et al.
Amended: 8/12/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Niello, Strickland

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: State Seal of Climate Literacy

SOURCE: California State PTA
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Ten Strands
UndauntedK12

DIGEST: This bill establishes the voluntary State Seal of Climate Literacy (SSCL), allowing local educational agencies (LEAs) to create pathways towards climate literacy disciplines and reward students who have demonstrated mastery. The bill also requires the Education Commissioner (Commissioner) and State Board of Education (SBE) to develop and adopt criteria for awarding the SSCL based on student coursework and experiential learning projects.

Assembly Amendments 1) extend the implementation timeline; 2) replace references to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) with the Commissioner; 3) specify that final experiential learning projects must be completed on a voluntary basis and be independent from student coursework; 4) remove provisions related to the Seal Distinctions; 5) remove LEA reporting requirements to align with policies of existing seals; and 6) emphasize equitable implementation wherever possible to ensure participation from diverse communities throughout the state.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Office of Education and the Environment (OEE) in the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and requires the OEE to implement a statewide environmental education program. (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 71300)

2) Requires the OEE, under the direction of CalRecycle and in cooperation with the CDE and the State Board of Education (SBE), to develop and implement a unified education strategy of the environment for elementary and secondary schools, as specified. (PRC § 71300)

3) Requires the CDE and SBE, in cooperation with CalRecycle, to develop and implement, to the extent feasible, a teacher training and implementation plan that guides the phased implementation of the unified education strategy in elementary, middle, and high school programs, for the education of pupils, faculty, and administrators on the importance of integrating environmental concepts and programs in schools. (PRC § 71300)

4) Establishes the voluntary State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE), affixed to the diploma or transcript of an eligible student, to encourage, and create pathways for, students in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels. (Education Code (EC) § 51475)

5) Requires the SPI, in developing criteria for the SSCE, to incorporate the Six Proven Practices for Effective Civic Learning, and to consult with a diverse group of credentialed, current classroom teachers who teach the subject of history-social science, including government, in secondary schools. Requires the SPI, on or before January 1, 2020, to recommend to the SBE criteria for awarding a SSCE to students, as specified. Requires the SBE, on or before

January 31, 2021, to adopt, reject, or modify the SSCE criteria recommended by the SPI. (EC § 51470 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Establishes the voluntary SSCL for the purpose of giving high school pupils personal agency to help them and their communities understand and adapt to the effects of climate change.

2) Requires the Commissioner, on or before December 31, 2027, to recommend to the SBE criteria for awarding the SSCL to pupils who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills or technical green skills, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy. Requires the Commissioner to consider, in the development of criteria, the following:

   a) Successful completion of at least two approved courses in the area of climate literacy, as specified.

   b) Successful completion and presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project, as specified.

3) Requires the Commissioner to ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, that the criteria developed pursuant to #2 above adhere to all of the following:

   a) Provides all pupils in participating LEAs with an opportunity to earn the SSCL.

   b) Recognizes pupil excellence and outstanding achievement.

   c) Is not based primarily on pupil achievement that is already recognized through grades or other standard measures of pupil achievement.

   d) Results in a seal that confers a benefit to pupils beyond high school, signaling to employers and institutions of higher education the pupil's readiness to contribute to a sustainable and resilient future.

4) Requires the SBE, on or before January 31, 2029, to adopt or adopt with modifications, all SSCL criteria recommended by the Commissioner.

5) Requires the Commissioner to do all of the following:

   a) Prepare and deliver to participating LEAs an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded an SSCL by the Commissioner.

b) Provide other information the Commissioner deems necessary for LEAs to successfully participate in awarding the SSCL to pupils.

c) Provide information to pupils who earn a SSCL about postsecondary opportunities and career pathways that leverage the knowledge and skills that pupils develop through earning the SSCL.

6) Authorizes the CDE to partner with nonprofit organizations to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to LEAs in awarding the SSCL to ensure broad participation from diverse communities throughout the state.

7) Requires a participating LEA, on or after the date that the SBE adopts SSCL criteria, to do the following:

a) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a SSCL.

b) Affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns a SSCL.

c) Provide information to pupils about available options and supports, including, but not limited to, approved courses, experiential learning, or final projects that pupils may complete to meet the criteria to earn a SSCL.

d) Establish a process for determining if a pupil has met the criteria necessary to earn a SSCL.

8) Defines the following terms:

a) "Climate literacy" means an understanding of the essential principles of the earth's climate system, assessing scientifically credible climate information, learning to communicate about the climate in a meaningful manner, and making informed and responsible decisions regarding actions that may affect the climate.

b) "Climate literacy experiential learning provider" means a provider that facilitates a pupil's final project, including, but not limited to, a school organization or club, local media outlet, business, nonprofit organization, or industry focused on green skills or technical green skills.

c) "Green jobs" or "green career" means occupations or employment positions that reduce harmful effects on the climate, adapt processes to minimize their effect on the climate, recognize and mitigate the disproportionate social

effects of climate change, support the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of communities, or contribute to the well-being and resilience of present and future generations.

d) "Green skills" means the adaptable knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes to live in, develop, and support an evolving, sustainable, and resource-efficient society.

e) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

f) "Technical green skills" means skills that fulfill the requirements of green jobs and that support the transition to a low-carbon sustainable economy.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "California has long led the nation in climate action. SB 1048 ensures we are also leading in climate education by preparing the next generation with the knowledge and real-world experience they need to meet the challenges of a changing climate."

California's Environmental Principles and Concepts. In 2003 and 2005, the Legislature passed AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005), which ultimately established the OEE under CalRecycle to develop education principles for the environment for elementary and secondary school pupils. The resulting California Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs) are comprised of five environmental principles and 15 supporting concepts that highlight the deep relationship between humans and the natural world and serve as "big ideas" intended to inform standards-based instruction and fuel student inquiry. These EP&Cs have been integrated into several state curriculum frameworks for California public schools serving kindergarten through grade twelve, including the 2016 History and Social Science Framework, the 2016 Science Framework, and the 2019 Health Education Framework.

Equity in Access to Climate Literacy Opportunities. This bill borrows the model of SSCE to create the SSCL. Specifically, it requires the SPI to recommend to the SBE criteria that would allow LEAs to recognize students who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills or technical green skills, and any and all other best practices for climate literacy. In the development of criteria, the bill requires the SPI to consider factors such as the completion of courses in the

area of climate literacy and the completion and presentation of a climate literacy final experiential learning project, as specified.

While the SSCL is intended to serve as a voluntary program, its implementation relies heavily on an LEA's ability to leverage partnerships with state and local climate literacy nonprofits, as well as labor and private sector entities engaged in the green economy. There are certainly areas of the state that have an abundance of local entities that are engaged with LEAs and have the capacity to partner with schools to provide learning opportunities for students; however, without careful attention to expanded access, such opportunities cannot be guaranteed for all students across the state.

This bill requires the Commissioner and the CDE to develop guidance, to the greatest extent feasible, provides all pupils with an opportunity to earn the SSCL and results in a seal that confers a benefit to the pupil beyond high school. This bill also authorizes the CDE to work with nonprofit organizations in furtherance of these priorities and others.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Minor, ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to high schools to verify whether a student has demonstrated climate literacy as prescribed by the criteria to be set forth by the SBE pursuant to this bill.

2) Ongoing General Fund costs, likely minor, for CDE to send out additional seals authorized under this new designation.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California State PTA (co-source)
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (co-source)
Ten Strands (co-source)
UndauntedK12 (co-source)
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
350 Bay Area Action
7th Generation Advisors
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
Adolfo Camarillo High School
American River Natural History Association dba Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Arc
Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Association of Nature Center Administrators
Bay Tree Design
Bluesky Consulting
Burbank Eco Council
Cadman Cooking and Garden Education Program
California Academy of Sciences
California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
California State Parks Foundation
California Teachers Association
Camp Chrysalis
Camp Ocean Pines
Canopy
Center for Ecoliteracy
Center for Environmental Health
CFT
Children Now
Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation
Citizens' Climate Lobby San Mateo County Chapter
City and County of San Francisco
City of Mountain View
Climate Action Campaign of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Climate Action Pathways for Schools
Climate Justice Committee, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Common Vision
Community for Natural Play Surfaces
Community Resources for Science
Crystal Cove Conservancy
Dfusion Inc.
Earthday.org
EdTrust-West
Elder Climate Action Northern California Chapter
Elders Climate Action Southern California Chapter
Environmental Education Collaborative
Environmental Nature Center
Equity Meets Design
Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools
Fremont Union High School District
Fresno Chaffee Zoo
Friends of the LA River

Friends of the Lost Coast
Grades of Green
Green Schoolyards America
HED
Heirs to Our Oceans
iCrest Education Foundation
Inner City Bliss
Life Lab
Living Classroom
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Gatos Almaden Pollinator Garden
Master Gardener Association of San Diego County
Menlo Spark
Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
National Center for Science Education
National Marine Educators Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nurture Nature
Oakland Goes Outdoors
Palo Alto Unified School District
People, Food and Land Foundation
Petaluma City Schools
Pittsburg Unified School District
Plant-Based Advocates
Rialto Unified School District
Richmond Outdoors Coalition
Roots to Branches Education
Sacramento Splash
Samuel Lawrence Foundation
San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air
San Francisco Climate Literacy Advocates
San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School
SanDiego350
Santa Clara County Medical Association
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Steam Learning Institute
Strategic Energy Innovations

Sustainable Marin Schools
Sustainable Mill Valley
SustainConsulting, LLC
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
The Friends of Daley Ranch
Three Oaks Outdoor Science School, Inc.
Tomorrow's Talent
TreePeople
trubel&co
U.S. Green Building Council
UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science
United Teachers Los Angeles
Utmost Atmos
Water Energy Education Alliance
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
Western Municipal Water District
YES Nature to Neighborhoods
Youth v. Oil
Three Individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

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8/24/26 17:05:39

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1051
Author: Menjivar (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 4/23/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Reyes, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Foster care: childcare

SOURCE: Alliance for Children's Rights
Child Care Resource Center

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a child care navigator to refer a foster child to the county welfare department for eligibility and approval under the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) and requires a county welfare department to determine eligibility of a child referred from a child care navigator.

Assembly Amendments add double jointing language with AB 2478 to avoid chaptering out issues.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Bridge Program as a county opt-in program with the purpose of stabilizing foster children with families at the time of placement by providing a time-limited payment or voucher for child care following the child's placement and providing the family with a child care navigator to assist the family in accessing long-term subsidized child care. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] § 11461.6)

2) Authorizes payments to be provided either directly to the family or child care provider, or through a contract with a local Alternative Payment program to distribute vouchers for child care. (WIC § 11461.6(c))

3) Requires participating county welfare departments to determine eligibility of a child for the Bridge Program using the following criteria:

   a) A family placement eligible to receive payment or a voucher for child care includes both of the following:

      i) Approved resource families and families that have a child placed with them in an emergency or for a compelling reason, as specified.

      ii) Parents under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, including, but not limited to, nonminor dependent parents.

   b) A participating county welfare department may provide a payment or voucher if work or school responsibilities preclude resource families from providing care under certain circumstances, as specified. (WIC § 11461.6(d))

4) Provides that each child receiving a monthly child care payment or voucher shall be provided with a child care navigator who shall work directly with the child's family, social worker, and the child and family team to assist in accessing child care at the time of placement as well as long-term, subsidized child care for the child, as necessary. (WIC § 11461.6(e))

5) Provides that child care resource and referral (R&R) programs, established to serve a defined geographic area, shall provide a common set of services. Requires child care R&R programs to be provided to all persons requesting services and all types of child care providers, regardless of income level or other eligibility criteria. (WIC § 102219 and 10222)

6) Requires R&R programs to provide a common set of services, including, but not limited to, provision of a child care navigator to support children in foster care and children of parents involved in the child welfare system, among others. Provides that a child care navigator shall work with the child's family, child's social worker, and the child and family team to assess child care opportunities appropriate to the child's age and needs, assist the family in identifying potential opportunities for an ongoing child care subsidy, assist the caregiver in completing appropriate child care program applications, and develop an overall, long-term child care plan for the child. (WIC § 10219(5)(A)(i))

7) Requires each R&R program to develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding, contract, or other formal agreement with the county child welfare agency in order to facilitate interagency communication and, to the maximum extent possible, to leverage federal funding to enhance navigation support. Alternatively allows an R&R program to explain in writing, annually, why entering into a formal agreement with the county child welfare agency is not practical or feasible. (WIC § 10219(5)(A)(ii))

This bill:

1) Authorizes a child care navigator to refer foster children to the county welfare department for eligibility and approval under the Bridge Program.

2) Requires a county welfare department to determine eligibility of a child referred from a child care navigator for the Bridge Program.

3) Adds double jointing language with AB 2478 to avoid chaptering out issues.

Background

Purpose of the Bill. According to the author, "When foster families and parenting youth call Resource and Referral agencies seeking child care, they are connected with a Bridge Navigator who can direct them to available resources. While they can certainly share the information, there is no direct coordination pathway to work with the county child welfare to help streamline approval of this child care voucher. Senate Bill 1051 would empower Bridge Navigators, who are well-positioned within Resource and Referral agencies, to submit referrals to county child welfare agencies to obtain approval for a child care voucher for an eligible foster child under the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program. It will streamline and strengthen the original intent of the Bridge Program by ensuring lack of access to child care is not a barrier to keeping children in safe, stable family home."

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children. The 2017 Budget Act established the Bridge Program to address child care as a barrier to placing foster children with relative and nonrelative caregivers (rather than placement in group homes). The Bridge Program is funded outside of other child care programs to provide a time-limited child care voucher for resource families at the time of a child's placement. Resource families are also provided with a child care navigator (located at an R&R program) to assist the family in accessing long-term subsidized child care. These supports make it easier for caregivers to take in a child on an emergency or temporary basis. In 2024–25, 48 counties were opted into the Bridge Program, and the program received funding to serve 5,537 children.

The Bridge Program is an opt-in program administered by county welfare departments in coordination with local Alternative Payment and R&R programs, both of which are often operated by the same child care agency. Participating county welfare departments must determine eligibility of a child based on whether the family is an approved resource family with a child placed with them in an emergency or the parents are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Most participating county welfare departments choose to contract with a local Alternative Payment program agency to distribute child care vouchers. Additionally, each R&R program is required to contract with its local county welfare department to facilitate interagency communication, leverage federal funding, and enhance navigation support.

Navigator Services. Navigation or navigator services are a component of many social service programs. R&R programs are required to provide navigator services to families participating in the Bridge Program to assess child care opportunities appropriate to the child's age and needs, assist the family in identifying potential opportunities for an ongoing child care subsidy, and develop a long-term child care plan for the child. R&R programs must provide navigator services to any child in foster care or involved in the child welfare system, regardless of a child's receipt of a child care voucher.

This bill would authorize a child care navigator to refer foster children to the county welfare department for eligibility and approval under the Bridge Program and require a county welfare department to determine the eligibility of a child referred by a child care navigator. According to the co-sponsors, this bill would empower navigators to connect resource families to child care resources they are eligible for when those families go to an R&R program seeking information about child care.

Comments

This bill seeks to make eligibility determinations for the Bridge Program more accessible for resource families who are already eligible but not receiving services. R&R programs are already in contact with resource families to assist with their child care needs. Resource families may not be utilizing a Bridge Program child care voucher because they were not made aware of the program or because their need for child care arose later during the foster care placement. This bill would create a "no wrong door" approach for families to gain access the Bridge Program. County welfare department social workers would still retain the authority to determine eligibility.

Recent state budget actions have reverted unspent Bridge Program funding. Between 2017 and 2022, annual funding for the program grew from $31 million to $87 million to serve more resource families and expand allowable uses for counties to serve families with compelling needs. In 2024, the budget reverted $47 million from the prior year and reappropriated it to the 2024–25 fiscal year. In 2025, the budget reverted $30 million from 2024–25 and reduced Bridge Program funding by $30 million ongoing. By improving the referral process, this bill could increase the volume of already eligible families enrolled in the Bridge Program and reduce the amount of unspent program funding.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2478 (Schultz) would establish a Kinship Family Approval process within CDSS as a streamlined pathway for relatives, nonrelative extended family members, and extended family members of Indian children to become approved foster care providers. AB 2478 includes double jointing language with this bill. AB 2478 is pending on the Senate Floor.

SB 187 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 50, Statutes of 2022), a budget trailer bill, authorized a county welfare department, starting September 1, 2022, to extend eligibility for the Bridge Program monthly payment or voucher beyond 12 months based on a compelling reason that may include, but is not limited to, the inability of the foster child to successfully transition to other subsidized child care, the loss of the payment or voucher would jeopardize a successful reunification or permanency plan, or other reasons authorized pursuant to guidance issued by CDSS.

SB 89 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2017), a budget trailer bill, established the Bridge Program as a county opt-in program, effective January 1, 2018.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "The California Department of Social Services indicates absorbable costs, if any. Because the Bridge Program is a county-optional program, any costs incurred by counties resulting from this bill are not reimbursable by the state."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Child Care Resource Center, INC. (Co-source)
Alliance for Children's Rights (Co-Source)
California Alliance of Caregivers
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
Child Action, INC.
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Children Now
County Welfare Diretors Association of California
Crystal Stairs, INC.
Early Edge California
Everychild California
First 5 California
First 5 LA
Kidango
Pathways LA
Peach
Public Counsel
The Resource Connection
Thriving Families California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/25/26 16:27:28

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1062
Author: Ochoa Bogh (R)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: fees

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), when adjusting the in lieu fees for the take of western Joshua trees (WJTs) under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA), to consider making the fees proportionate to the impact of the project and the use of tiered fees by project type, size, or other criteria.

Assembly Amendments add chaptering out amendments with AB 1808 (Carillo, 2026)

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CDFW and the California Fish and Game Commission (commission) in the California Natural Resources Agency. In general, CDFW implements and enforces the regulations set by the commission and provides data and expertise to inform the commission's decision making.

2) Specifies that CDFW has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §1802).

3) Defines "take" as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. (FGC §86).

4) Prohibits the taking of an endangered or threatened species, except in certain situations. Provides that a candidate species receives California Endangered Species Act (CESA) protections while its status is pending. (FGC §§2070 *et seq.*).

5) Allows CDFW to authorize the taking of listed species pursuant to an incidental take permit if the taking is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity, the impacts are minimized and fully mitigated, and the issuance of the permit would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. (FGC §§2081; 2084).

6) Establishes the WJTCA that enacts the following, among other provisions (FGC §§1927 *et seq.*):

   a) Prohibits any person or public agency from importing into the state, exporting out of the state, or taking, possessing, purchasing, or selling within the state, a WJT or any part or product of the WJT, except pursuant to the WJTCA, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), or the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP Act).

   b) Authorizes WJT take under CESA or by paying certain in-lieu fees specified by the WJTCA when the WJT is a candidate species under CESA.

   c) Requires the WJTCA to remain operative if the commission determines that listing the WJT under CESA is not warranted. Requires WJT take permitting under CESA or pursuant to the NCCP Act if the commission determines that

listing the WJT under CESA is warranted, which would render the WJTCA inoperative.

d) Authorizes CDFW to issue a permit for the taking of a WJT if specified conditions are met, including, that the permittee mitigates all impacts to, and taking of, the WJT. Authorizes CDFW to include in its permit conditions the requirement that the permittee relocate one or more WJTs. Requires permittees to bear responsibility for implementing measures to assist the survival of relocated WJTs.

e) Authorizes a permittee, in lieu of completing the mitigation measures on its own, to elect to satisfy the mitigation obligation by paying a fee pursuant to a specified fee schedule.

f) Requires CDFW to annually adjust the fees for inflation, and to review the fees by December 31, 2026, and every three years thereafter, to ensure the conservation of WJT.

    i) Requires CDFW to utilize total cost accounting when determining the adequacy of the fees for ensuring conservation of the species, including ensuring sufficient funds for land acquisition or conservation easement costs, monitoring costs, restoration costs, transaction costs, and the amount of endowments for land management or stewardship costs, as provided.

g) Requires all fees remitted to CDFW to be deposited into the Conservation Fund, as provided, and requires the moneys in the Conservation Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be used solely for the purposes of acquiring, conserving, and managing WJT conservation lands and completing other activities to conserve the WJT.

h) Requires CDFW to submit to the commission an update of the status review required under CESA that incorporates any new scientific information and includes an evaluation of conservation efforts under the WJTCA by January 1, 2033.

This bill requires CDFW, when adjusting the in lieu fees for WJTs, to consider making the fees proportionate to the impact of the project and the use of tiered fees by project type, size, or other criteria, and adds chaptering out amendments with AB 1808 (Carillo, 2026).

Background

The WJT is currently a candidate species under CESA as determined by the commission.

[NOTE: For additional information on this bill, please see the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee's analysis.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

CDFW estimates General Fund costs of approximately $772,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2027-28 and $747,000 in FY 2028-29 and ongoing for three positions to implement the requirements of this bill.

As discussed in the background, CDFW is in the process of developing regulations to adjust mitigation fees to ensure fees are adequate for the conservation of the western Joshua tree (WJT) species. The department held a public meeting in January 2026 to receive initial feedback on its fees and expects to complete this process in late 2026. CDFW contends that while it is already undertaking a fee adjustment process, this bill adds additional complexity to its work by requiring the department to consider proportionate and tiered fee structures – which may require CDFW to evaluate and define project categories, establish thresholds for project sizes or impacts, and determine how fee tiers would be structured for different types of projects. CDFW would additionally need to modify project application templates and guidance documents and update tracking metrics.

CDFW anticipates receiving a high volume of applications for a broad range of projects requesting a tiered fee structure if such a structure were to go into effect. The department contends that processing these requests on a case-by-case basis would increase the complexity of and time required for permit review, particularly for larger or more complex infrastructure projects. CDFW asserts that the anticipated level of coordination, technical evaluation, and negotiation required to implement this bill would result in increased staff time per project application as well as additional resources to support consistent implementation across regions.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

Antelope Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprise
Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency
CalCIMA
California Building Industry Association
California Farm Bureau
California Groundwater Coalition

City of Big Bear Lake
City of Hesperia
City of Lancaster
City of Victorville
Community Water Systems Alliance
County of San Bernardino
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Hi-Desert Water District
Inland Action, Inc.
Joshua Basin Water District
League of California Cities, Desert Mountain Division
Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association
Mission Springs Water District
Mojave Water Agency
Morongo Basin Residents for Reasonable Joshua Tree Regulations
Palmdale Water District
Phelan Piñon Hills Community
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
The Honorable Dawn Rowe, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of San Bernardino
Town of Apple Valley
Town of Yucca Valley
Twentynine Palms Water District
Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "The Western Joshua tree is a native plant species found throughout California's high desert and is protected by the WJTCA, which prohibits the taking of the species unless authorized by CDFW. While these protections serve an important conservation purpose, public agencies responsible for operating, maintaining, or constructing systems that provide life-sustaining services – such as electricity, gas, water, sewer, or telecoms – face unique challenges in complying with the existing permitting and fee structure."

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/25/26 18:45:56

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1064
Author: Dahle (R), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-1, 8/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program: testing

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill limits the frequency of Clean Truck Check testing for all non-gasoline heavy-duty on-road motor vehicles that are considered low use, as

defined, and requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt rules and regulations implementing the change.

Assembly Amendments clarify the low-use classification.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the air pollution control agency in California and requires CARB, among other things, to control emissions from a wide array of mobile sources and coordinate, encourage, and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §39500 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program, commonly known as the smog check program, to help the state meet federal air quality standards, for vehicles under 14,000 pounds. (HSC §44000 et seq.)

3) Establishes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to, among other things, register vehicles for operation in the state. (Vehicle Code §1500 et seq.)

4) Establishes, pursuant to SB 210 (Leyva, Chapter 298, Statutes of 2019) the Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program for non-gasoline, heavy-duty trucks (also known as "Clean Truck Check"). (HSC § 44150 et seq.)

This bill directs CARB to update Clean Truck Check such that no low use vehicles (defined as being driven fewer than 1,000 miles per year) will be required to be smog tested more often than annually.

Background

Heavy-duty vehicle emissions. Poor air quality contributes to a wide range of negative health impacts, including childhood asthma attacks, impaired lung function and development, lung cancer, heart attacks and strokes, and premature deaths. Many Californians, especially those in lower-income communities and communities of color, often face disproportionate impacts due to multiple, local sources of pollution.[1]

Heavy-duty vehicles are major contributors to statewide mobile air pollution even

[1] American Lung Association, State of the Air 2025.

though this sector makes up only a small portion (roughly 3%) of California's total on-road vehicle fleet. In 2020, heavy-duty vehicles emitted approximately 52% of the statewide on-road mobile source oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions and about 54% of the statewide on-road mobile source particulate matter (PM) 2.5 emissions.[2]

Heavy-duty vehicles' PM and NOx emissions damage human health and the environment. In 1998, CARB listed diesel PM as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) due to its contribution to increased mortality, cancer risk, and serious illness (CARB, 2021b). NOx is a precursor of ozone formation and several other air toxics including PM. Exposure to PM or ozone can lead to serious adverse health effects such as asthma, cardiopulmonary and respiratory diseases, and premature deaths.

Many densely populated areas in California, such as the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley air basins, still are not in attainment with the federal ozone and PM 2.5 standards (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2021). About 70% of Californians live in areas that exceed the federal ozone and PM 2.5 standards (CARB, 2020d). As heavy-duty freight movement continues to increase in California, it is particularly important to address the heavy-duty vehicles which substantially contribute to these pollution levels. To achieve federal air quality standards and improve public health in these regions as well as across the State, it is critical to substantially further reduce NOx and PM emissions from on-road heavy-duty vehicles.

Emissions controls and diagnosis. The purpose of smog check programs (be they for light- or heavy-duty vehicles) is to ensure that emissions controls on the vehicles' exhaust system is working as intended. This is primarily a function of the catalytic converter. Catalytic converters reduce vehicle exhaust emission levels by chemically converting engine-out emissions before the exhaust gas leaves the tailpipe. A converter contains a substrate that directs exhaust gases through narrow channels coated with precious metals that initiate the conversion of pollutants into primarily carbon dioxide and water vapor. Since their introduction in the mid-1970's, catalytic converters continue to be the single most important technology for the control of emissions from gasoline powered motor vehicles. Current catalytic converter designs are more than 95% efficient in removing the hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from engine exhaust before they reach the atmosphere.

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[2] CARB. Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Regulation Staff Report: Initial Statement of Reasons. 10/8/2021
https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2021/hdim2021/isor.pdf

Although catalytic converters can be incredibly effective at removing air pollutants before they leave the vehicle's exhaust system, they are complex devices that have multiple potential points of failure. Most modern vehicles include On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) systems, which are computer systems embedded in vehicles that allow rapid diagnosis of common problems in vehicles. Failures of emission control devices can often be detected through the OBD system and generally cause the vehicle's malfunction indicator lamp (or "check engine light") to illuminate. As part of the regulatory process to implement Clean Truck Check, CARB conducted field testing of heavy-duty vehicles.[3] They found that 11-17% of tested vehicles had their check engine light on, and stated that, "Data from heavy-duty and light-duty studies also demonstrate that often, if a malfunction does not significantly impact drivability, many vehicle owners will wait until mandated by a regulation to fix the issue."[4]

Clean Truck Check, California's heavy-duty vehicle inspection and maintenance program. Established pursuant to SB 210 (Leyva, Chapter 298, Statutes of 2019), Clean Truck Check is a regulation to test heavy-duty vehicles' emissions control systems for proper operation. Clean Truck Check applies to nearly all diesel and alternative fuel heavy-duty vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 14,000 pounds that operate on California public roads and highways even if they are not registered in California. This includes public vehicles (federal, state, and local government); motorcoaches; transit, shuttle and school buses; hybrid vehicles; commercial vehicles; personal vehicles; California registered motorhomes; single vehicle fleets; and vehicles registered outside of California (not including motorhomes).

Clean Truck Check began its phase-in starting January 2023 and is currently being fully implemented. The program combines periodic (ranging from annually to quarterly depending on vehicle class and use) vehicle testing requirements with other emissions monitoring techniques and expanded enforcement strategies to identify vehicles in need of emissions related repairs and ensure any needed repairs are performed. According to CARB, the program provides significant reductions in smog-forming and carcinogenic toxic air pollution necessary to achieve federal air quality mandates and healthy air in California's communities. Zero-emission trucks are exempt from the Clean Truck Check program.

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[3] CARB. Final Statement of Reasons.
https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2021/hdim2021/hdi-mfsor.pdf

[4] CARB. Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Regulation Staff Report: Initial Statement of Reasons. 10/8/2021
https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2021/hdim2021/isor.pdf

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "California's air quality and climate goals are critical to public health, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by freight movement and diesel emissions. The Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program plays an important role in reducing nitrogen oxides and particulate matter from the trucking sector. SB 1064 does not weaken California's emissions standards or Clean Air Act authority. Instead, it refines the inspection frequency framework to ensure long term compliance, legal durability, and economic sustainability. By transitioning to a biennial testing structure while preserving emissions requirements, SB 1064 supports continued progress toward cleaner air while ensuring that compliance mechanisms remain workable and enforceable statewide and are not onerously burdensome for the businesses that make California so exceptional."

Big regs for big rigs. This bill would align heavy-duty emissions check requirements with the light-duty smog check requirements Californian drivers are already familiar with. However, the consequences to air quality of malfunctioning emissions control systems on commercial heavy-duty trucks is significantly higher than for personal use of light-duty vehicles.

Trucks make up only 6% of the state's vehicle population, but they represent almost a quarter of the state's transportation GHG emissions and nearly half the NOx emissions. Considering heavy-duty vehicles can operate upwards of 100,000 miles per year, it is critical to test these vehicles frequently to ensure they are operating properly. Even with a testing frequency of 4 times per year, these long-haul heavy-duty vehicles could be operating over 25,000 miles within this three-month period between tests, which is significantly more than many light duty passenger cars travel within a whole year.

In the three years since Clean Truck Check implementation began, inspections of heavy-duty vehicle emissions systems has become commonplace. According to CARB's Clean Truck Check website, there are currently 2,550 credentialed testers in California today.[5]

Don't make me turn this thing around. California's transportation sector is its greatest source of harmful air pollutants which are required to be reduced under the Federal Clean Air Act. The majority of Californians are exposed to unhealthy air

[5] Credentialed Tester List. CARB. Accessed 3/1/2026 at **https://cleantruckcheck.arb.ca.gov/Public/PublicTester/TesterList**

today, and without significant reductions in air pollution, they will continue to. These efforts have been stymied recently as California has lost a number of regulatory tools necessary for regulation and enforcement.

Clean Truck Check does not create or strengthen any requirements on vehicle emission standards, it only helps ensure that existing requirements are being complied with. At a time where we are losing so many tools to clean up California's air, it may go against the state's interests to substantially relax inspections of heavy-duty vehicles' emissions.

Nevertheless, given the tremendous breadth of duty cycles, geographies, and vehicles California's heavy-duty vehicle fleet represents, a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach may create unintended consequences. CARB has already considered less-frequent smog testing while developing the Clean Truck Check regulations and opted not to relax requirements, due to the outsized impact on criteria air pollutant releases that may result from unchecked vehicles driving many tens of thousands of miles per year. While this trade-off may be particularly reasonable for vehicles driving so many miles, there may be instances where low-use vehicles are spending a disproportionate amount of their on-road miles getting to and from smog testing stations. This reality has been reflected in other heavy-duty regulations, such as the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation and the Truck and Bus Regulation, in which low-use vehicles receive certain exemptions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

"Ongoing costs of an unknown, but potentially significant, amount to ARB (Truck Emissions Check (TEC) Fund) for compliance and enforcement, amending and updating the heavy-duty inspection and maintenance regulation, conducting additional outreach and education, and identifying solutions to offset excess emissions.

"The annual compliance fee assessed on vehicle owners subject to Clean Truck Check (used to fund ARB's cost of implementing the program) for 2026 is $32.13. ARB collected approximately $25 million in fee revenue last year. The fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 budget provided ARB with $1.8 million in ongoing funding (TEC Fund) for 10 permanent positions (originally supported with one-time funding in the 2022 Budget Act) to continue implementing and enforcing the Clean Truck Check program.

"Potential ongoing costs of an unknown amount (TEC Fund) to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to implement this bill. Under Clean Truck Check, DMV must verify compliance with emission requirements prior to initial registration, renewal, or transfer of ownership; collect a fee for the issuance of a temporary operating permit, as appropriate; and coordinate with ARB on system changes and program considerations. The FY 2025-26 budget provided DMV with $4.9 million in FY 2025-26 and $3.5 million in FY 2026-27 and ongoing for about 19 positions to support post-implementation information technology enhancements and ongoing workload activities associated with the Clean Truck Check program.

It is not clear to the committee whether ARB or DMV could absorb a portion of the costs to implement this bill within their existing resources."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Associated California Loggers
Associated General Contractors, California Chapters
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
California Grain & Feed Association
California Moving and Storage Association
California Tow Truck Association
California Trucking Association
Pacific Egg & Poultry Association
Western Propane Gas Association
Western States Trucking Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

350 Bay Area Action
Active San Gabriel Valley
American Lung Association
Bike LA
Central California Environmental Justice Network
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Climate Action California
Climate Health Now Action Fund
Coalition for Clean Air
Environmental Defense Fund
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Healing and Justice Center
LA Forward

Nature for All
Nrdc
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
Santa Monica Spoke
South Pas Active Streets
Sustainable Claremont
The Wildwoods Foundation
Union of Concerned Scientists
Valley Improvement Projects

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 8/20/26, 65-1Ayes: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas
Noes: Muratsuchi
No Vote Recorded: Addis, Boerner, Bryan, Chen, Connolly, Garcia, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Pellerin, Rogers, Schultz, Zbur

Prepared by: Heather Walters / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/20/26 14:15:26

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1067
Author: Weber Pierson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 8/24/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil instruction: math screenings

SOURCE: EdVoice

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to approve criteria for diagnostic assessments, considering specified factors, by July 31, 2027; 2) requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to post on its website an approved list of assessments that meet the SBE-developed criteria, from which local educational agencies (LEAs) must then select, by January 31, 2028; 3) requires LEAs to adopt one or more diagnostic assessments from the CDE published list by June 30, 2028; and 4) requires LEAs to annually assess, beginning in the 2028-29 school year, the mathematical knowledge and learning needs of kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students using a diagnostic assessment

Assembly Amendments 1) replace all references to screenings and screening instruments with diagnostic assessments; 2) strike the requirement for the SBE to appoint an independent panel of experts to approve a list of mathematic diagnostic assessments and instead require the SBE to approve and post on its website, criteria and guidance for selecting specified mathematic diagnostic assessments; 3) require the CDE, on or before January 31, 2028, to publish a list of approved diagnostic assessments, and post additional guidance to assist LEAs in selecting diagnostic assessments from the approved list; 4) clarify provisions related to an LEAs use of diagnostic assessments that are not among the CDE's approved list; 5) remove requirements related to the time of year pupils must be assessed; 6) encourage LEAs to leverage existing state investments to support pupils identified through the diagnostic assessment; 7) require the SBE to develop requirements and procedures for LEAs to notify the CDE and parents and guardians of assessment use and results, as well as determine the information the CDE shall make available to the public; and 8) require the CDE to curate and maintain on its website, guidance and resources on evidence based support, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), during the next revision of the mathematics curriculum framework, on or after January 1, 2025, to consider including that pupils in grade 8 be offered the opportunity to take Algebra I or Mathematics I course that is aligned to the content standards adopted by the SBE. (Education Code (EC) § 33547.5)

2) Requires the SBE, on or before January 31, 2024, to appoint an independent panel of experts for the purpose of creating an approved list of screening instruments for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties, as specified. (EC § 53008)

3) Requires the above panel of experts to vote to approve a list of screening instruments that includes screening instruments that are developed both for English-speaking pupils and for non-English speaking pupils, in languages reflecting the primary languages of pupils in the state, to the extent assessments in those languages are available. (EC § 53008)

4) Requires the governing board or body of an LEA serving pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 to adopt one or more screening instruments from the list

approved by the panel of experts above to assess pupils for risk of reading difficulties, as specified. (EC § 53008)

5) Requires LEAs serving pupils in kindergarten, or grades 1 or 2, beginning no later than the 2025-26 school year, and annually thereafter, to assess each pupil in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 for risk of reading difficulties using the screening instrument or instruments adopted by the governing board or body of the LEA, unless the pupil's parent or guardian opts out of the screening in writing. (EC § 53008)

6) States that results from a screening instrument shall be used as part of a broader process that further evaluates pupil needs and progress, identifies supports for classroom instruction, enables targeted individual intervention as needed, and allows for further diagnosis if concerns do not resolve. (EC § 53008)

7) Requires an LEA to provide a student who has been screened and identified as being at risk of having reading difficulties with supports and services, appropriate to the specific challenges identified by the screening instrument and other pertinent information about the pupil. (EC § 53008)

8) Defines "reading difficulties" to mean a barrier that impacts a pupil's ability to learn to read or improve reading abilities, including dyslexia. (EC § 53008)

This bill:

1) Requires the SBE, by July 31, 2027, to approve criteria and guidance for diagnostic assessments that LEAs can use to assess students in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades for math knowledge.

2) Authorizes the SBE to approve grade-specific criteria for diagnostic assessments. Requires the SBE to consider multiple factors when developing assessment criteria, including the extent to which an assessment addresses the following factors:

   a) Measurement of grade-level foundational math skills, as outlined in the Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2023).

   b) Evidence that the tool is validated using a contemporary multicultural and multilingual sample of students, with outcome data for English learners and non-English learners;

c) Integration of relevant student demographic information, such as home language and access to prekindergarten education, to more fully understand a student's performance;

d) Guidance and resources for educators on how to administer, interpret, and respond to diagnostic assessments, as specified.

3) Requires the math diagnostic assessments to be evidence-based; to be culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate; to assess a student's mathematics knowledge and learning needs; and to identify students in need of additional support.

4) Requires the CDE to post on its website the SBE criteria and guidance by July 31, 2027.

5) Requires the CDE, by January 31, 2028, to post on its website the following:

a) A list of approved diagnostic assessments that comply with the SBE criteria and guidance. Requires the list to include assessments for both English learners and non-English learners, in the primary languages of students in the state, to the extent possible. Authorizes the CDE to update the list of approved assessments periodically, as appropriate.

b) Guidance to assist LEAs in selecting diagnostic assessments from the CDE list, including but not limited to how LEAs may weigh the following factors:

i) The time it takes to complete the assessment;

ii) The time it takes for assessment results to become available to educators;

iii) The availability of digital and nondigital assessments, and for digital assessments, the data privacy protections in place; and

iv) The ability of the assessment to accommodate pupils with exceptional needs.

6) Requires LEAs serving students in grades kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd to adopt, on or before June 30, 2028, one or more diagnostic assessments from the CDE list. Requires LEAs to include assessments in the primary languages of students in the LEA, to the extent possible.

7) Authorizes LEAs to use an assessment not on the CDE list if its governing board or body self-certifies that the assessment meets all of the SBE criteria. Requires self-certification to include findings that the assessment has been

validated to assess students' math knowledge in the relevant grades and meets the SBE-developed criteria. Requires self-certification to be reported to the CDE by July 15, 2029, in a form and manner determined by the CDE.

8) Requires, beginning with the 2028-29 school year, LEAs to annually assess kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students with an approved math diagnostic assessment.

9) Prohibits math assessments from being considered an evaluation or diagnostic tool pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and from being used to delay the IDEA child find process. Authorizes an LEA to use assessment results to recommend students for further assessment to establish special education eligibility and related services pursuant to IDEA or 504 plans.

10) Specifies procedures for students who do not have sufficient English proficiency to be assessed.

11) Authorizes an LEA to not screen a student if the LEA receives written consent of the parent or guardian, and the student has a current identification or diagnosis of dyscalculia or other disability, or is eligible or currently being assessed for special education and related services pursuant to IDEA or a 504 plan.

12) Requires an LEA to provide parents or guardians with information about the assessment. Requires assessment results be made available to parents and guardians in a timely manner, including specified information.

13) Requires assessment results be used to assess students' math knowledge and identify students who need additional support, not as a diagnosis of a disability. Requires results to be used as part of a broader process that accomplishes the following;

    a) Further evaluates student needs and progress;

    b) Identifies supports for classroom instruction;

    c) Enables targeted individual intervention as needed; and

    d) Allows for further diagnosis if concerns do not resolve.

14) Requires LEAs to provide supports and services to students whose assessment results indicate they may benefit from additional instructional support or

intervention, which may include but may not be limited to specified interventions.

15) Encourages LEAs to leverage existing state investments, including Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, mathematics coaching, professional learning opportunities, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, and other resources to support students identified through assessments.

16) Prohibits assessment results from being used for any high-stakes purpose, including but not limited to teacher or staff evaluation, accountability, student grade promotion or retention, identification for gifted or talented education, or identification as an individual with exceptional needs.

17) Encourages LEAs to use local assessments, statewide assessment data, and formative assessment tools, and other measures of student progress to monitor student math achievement and provide appropriate support through elementary, middle, and high school.

18) Requires the SBE, on or before July 31, 2028, to determine the information and process by which LEAs shall notify the CDE of assessment results, and the information the CDE may make available to the public.

19) Requires the CDE, by April 30, 2028, to curate and maintain on its website guidance and resources on evidence-based support and intervention and Tier 1 instructional strategies aligned with the 2023 Mathematics Framework.

20) Requires the SBE and CDE to solicit stakeholder input when developing the criteria, guidance, and list of diagnostic assessments, and allow for public comment.

21) Defines the following terms:

    a) "Assessment" or "diagnostic assessment" means a tool used to identify pupils' specific knowledge, skills, strengths, and learning gaps to inform instruction and supports, administered by an appropriately trained school employee, including, but not limited to, a certificated teacher of record, and may include a kindergarten readiness assessment.

    b) "Kindergarten" does not include transitional kindergarten, as defined in existing statute.

    c) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

Comment

Need for the bill. According to the author, "California is in the midst of a math achievement crisis that is limiting students' long-term academic and career opportunities and widening equity gaps across our state. As a legislator, I believe it is our shared responsibility to ensure that future generations have the foundation they need to succeed and to contribute meaningfully to sustaining California's leadership in innovation and growth. Math learning is cumulative, and when students fall behind in the early grades it becomes much harder to catch up—too often turning small gaps into lifelong barriers, with the greatest impacts on low-income students and students of color.

"SB 1067 takes a proactive, prevention-focused approach by ensuring young students are screened for early math challenges and receive timely, evidence-based support when it is most effective. At its core, this bill is about making sure every child builds a strong foundation in math, opening the door to lasting academic achievement, meaningful career pathways, and lifelong success in California's innovation economy."

The 2023 Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (Framework). In 2023, the SBE adopted a new Framework after an extensive revision process. The Framework is important guidance designed to help educators align classroom teaching with California's rigorous math learning standards. The purpose of the revised Framework is to support excellence in math teaching and learning through curriculum and instructional approaches grounded in research and reflective of best practices across the globe. The revised Framework provides guidance for mathematics learning for all students at all levels of math, including calculus, and ensures students have a wide variety of options, including pursuing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in college or seeking other careers that benefit from quantitative knowledge and reasoning. Notable highlights of the new Framework include the following:

- Guidance to help educators structure the teaching of state math standards around "Big Ideas" that integrate math concepts across grade levels and through developmental progressions and encourage students to connect with their learning through "real-world" examples and problem solving.

- Guidance to help educators make mathematics instruction culturally relevant and empowering, thus allowing students to see themselves in the curriculum and in math-related careers.

- Guidance to help educators incorporate data science into math instruction throughout grade levels and encourage students to become proficient at understanding and using data, with the goal of helping students identify misleading data and use data to make informed decisions.

- Guidance on strategies that support learning recovery for students, such as providing additional support and expanded learning time; providing personalized learning; and including one-on-one or small group tutoring.

In 2025, the IQC completed the process of adopting Framework-aligned instructional materials for three types of programs: basic grade-level for kindergarten through grade 8, Algebra I, and Integrated Mathematics I.

This bill develops a timeline and infrastructure to support schools in their efforts to provide targeted early math supports to students:

a) By July 31, 2027, requires the SBE to approve, and the CDE to publish, Framework informed criteria and guidance for selecting evidence-based, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate diagnostic assessments for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2;

b) By January 31, 2028, requires the CDE to publish an approved list of diagnostic assessments to assess pupils' mathematics knowledge and learning needs and identify pupils in need of additional support;

c) By June 30, 2028, requires the governing board or body of an LEA to adopt one or more diagnostic assessments from the approved list, or adopt a self-certified equivalent that meets specified criteria;

d) Beginning no later than the 2028-29 school year, requires LEAs serving students in kindergarten or grades 1 or 2 to assess the mathematics knowledge of each pupil in those grade levels using a locally adopted diagnostic assessment.

e) By April 30, 2028, requires the CDE to curate and maintain online guidance and resources on evidence-based support and intervention and Tier 1 instructional strategies aligned with the Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve.

Ultimately, if the results of the diagnostic assessment indicate that a student may benefit from additional instructional support or intervention, the LEA must then provide the student with supports and services that address the specific challenges

identified by the diagnostic assessment and other pertinent information about the student.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown but likely significant amount, possibly in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars statewide, for LEAs to adopt an approved diagnostic assessment and update associated notifications and guidance to parents. Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs potentially in the millions to tens of millions of dollars annually, to administer the assessments and provide appropriate supports to students. To the extent an LEA already administers a compliant math assessment in the early grades and dedicates resources towards targeted interventions then costs would be lower.

- The Budget Act of 2026 includes $4.4 billion in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund discretionary resources to LEAs via the Student Support and Professional Development Block Grant that could be used to support implementation of this bill by LEAs.

- One-time costs of approximately $1 million for CDE to determine, adopt, and post approved diagnostic assessments based on SBE-adopted criteria.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

EdVoice (source)
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
21st Century Alliance
Bell Resident Club
Black Parallel School Board
California State PTA
California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Charles Armstrong School
Decoding Dyslexia CA
Delta Kappa Gamma International - Chi State
Designated Exceptional Services for Independence
El Centro Del Pueblo
Elevate California
Ensemble Learning

Families in Schools
Fenton Charter Public Schools
Gumball Foundation
Hawley Special Education Law Advocacy
Innovate Public Schools
KIPP Public Schools Northern California
La Comadre Network
Latinos in Action
Legislative Action Committee - Santa Clara County School Boards Association
Maywood Education Fair
Mi Escuelita Bilingue
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council on Teacher Quality
New Economics for Women
Ollin Law
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission
San Mateo County School Boards Association
Scholarship Association for ESL Students
SpEducational
Teach for America
Teach Start
Walnut Park Civic Engagement Project
Watts of Power Foundation
Yo Soy Tu Voz

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Association of California School Administrators
California County Superintendents
California Mathematics Council
California Teachers Association
Californians Together
Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 8/24/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Haney,

Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bennett, Mark González, Kalra, McKinnor, Rogers, Solache, Ward, Zbur

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 20:58:56

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1069
Author: Grayson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/19/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Motor vehicle pollution control devices: aftermarket parts: approval process

SOURCE: Specialty Equipment Market Association

DIGEST: Creates a process for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to grant conditional approval for a manufacturer to sell an add-on or modified part for on-road vehicles or engines before CARB grants them an executive order to sell the part.

Assembly Amendments recast the bill to define terms, allow for conditional approvals, and specify how CARB may respond to petitions for executive orders.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) The Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) and its implementing regulations set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants, designate air basins that do not achieve NAAQS as nonattainment, allow only California to set vehicular emissions standards stricter than the federal government, and allow other states to adopt either the federal or California vehicular emissions standards. (42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the air pollution control agency in California and requires the CARB, among other things, to control emissions from a wide array of mobile sources. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §39500 et seq.)

2) Requires the CARB to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations necessary for the proper execution of its statutory mandates. (HSC §39601 et seq.)

3) Establishes the Air Pollution Control Fund in the State Treasury for CARB to carry out its duties and functions, upon appropriation by the Legislature. (HSC §43015)

4) Establishes the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program, commonly known as the smog check program, to help the state meet federal air quality standards. (HSC §44000 et seq.)

5) Prohibits a person from installing, selling, offering for sale, or advertising any device, apparatus, or mechanism intended for use with, or as a part of, a required motor vehicle pollution control device or system that alters or modifies the original design or performance of the motor vehicle pollution control device or system. (Vehicle Code (VEH) §27156)

6) Allows, to a vehicle, an alteration, modification, or modifying device, apparatus, or mechanism if CARB finds by resolution that it does not (i) reduce the effectiveness of a required motor vehicle pollution control device, and (ii) result in emissions from the modified or altered vehicle that are above levels that comply with existing state or federal standards for that model-year of the vehicle being modified or converted. (VEH §27156)

This bill:

1) Defines "applicant", "complete application", "Emissions test laboratory", "Exemption procedures", and "final determination" for the purposes of the bill.

2) States that an applicant who satisfies the following requirements may request CARB issue a conditional approval to sell an add-on or modified part before issuance of an executive order while the applicant is awaiting final determination for the add-on or modified part:

   a) An applicant may only submit a request if they have received 10 executive orders to the application pursuant to subdivision (e) of section 2222 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations and at least one of the executive orders was issued for an add-on or modified part within the same application category set forth in Section III(a) of the exemption procedures as the part that is the subject of the application.

3) States that CARB shall do both of the following:

   a) Determine whether the application is a complete application and the applicant is eligible to apply; and,

   b) Notify the applicant in writing whether the above requirements have been met.

4) States that if CARB determines that the application is complete and the applicant meets all requirements, CARB shall grant a conditional approval, which shall become effective on the date that CARB notifies the applicant that requirements have been met.

5) States that if CARB determines that the application is incomplete and the applicant does not meet all requirements, CARB shall submit a response to the applicant detailing the reasons why the application is incomplete and shall work with the applicant to satisfy the requirements.

6) States that if CARB does not determine whether or not the application requirements have been satisfied within 30 business days of receipt of the request, the application shall be deemed to be conditionally approved. The conditional approval shall become effective on the date that the applicant

notifies CARB in writing of its intent to sell the add-on or modified part.

a) If CARB receives more than 50 applications during any 30-business-day period, CARB may extend the determination period by 15 business days for each increment of 50 applications received during that period. CARB must notify each affected applicant in writing of the extension and the revised deadline within five business days after the threshold specified is reached. An application may be subject to no more than one extension.

7) States that upon the effective date of a conditional approval, the add-on or modified part specified in the application may be sold, offered for sale, advertised, or installed in the state. A conditional approval shall be treated as the equivalent to an executive order.

8) Provides that upon the effective date of conditional approval, the validity of a conditional approval shall not be affected by a request from the state board for additional information, clarification, supplemental documentation, supplemental testing, or other materials necessary for granting an executive order.

9) States that a conditional approval shall expire two years from the effective date of the conditional approval, unless extended by the executive officer, or upon issuance of an executive order, whichever occurs sooner.

10) States that the manufacturer shall maintain detailed records of all parts sold under the conditional approval and provide those records to the state board within 30 days of a request for those records.

a) CARB may suspend or revoke a conditional permit for any of the following reasons:

i) The applicant fails to maintain the detailed records as specified;

ii) CARB determines that the application contained materially inaccurate or misleading information at the time of submission.

11) Provides that an add-on or modified part sold, offered for sale, advertised, or installed under a conditional approval shall not be deemed a violation of Section 27156 of the Vehicle Code solely because a final determination has not been made.

12) States that upon withdrawal, revocation, or expiration of a conditional approval, the executive officer may require the manufacturer to implement a recall, corrective action, stop-sale order, or other remedy for parts sold, offered for sale, advertised, or installed in the state, as the executive officer determines necessary and appropriate.

13) States that the manufacturer shall be responsible for all costs associated with any recall and remedy required pursuant to this subdivision. CARB may require the manufacturer to submit and implement a recall or corrective action plan for parts sold, offered for sale, advertised, or installed in the state.

14) States that a manufacturer that fails to comply with a recall or corrective action plan required pursuant to this subdivision may be subject to civil penalties pursuant to Section 43008.6.

15) Provides that on or before July 1, 2028, the state board shall revise the exemption procedures and any associated forms, guidance documents, or regulations as necessary to implement the requirements of this section.

Background

Executive Orders and Aftermarket Parts. Due to the air pollution caused by vehicles, CARB requires vehicle manufacturers to develop engine and emission equipment systems that reduce the specific pollutants that cause California's severe air quality problem. These emission control systems are also required to be proven durable and reliable.

To ensure that these systems operate as designed, it is prohibited to make modifications to vehicles that increase emissions. If, however, a manufacturer and CARB prove that an aftermarket part or modification does not increase vehicle emissions, it may be installed. The certification process culminates in CARB issuing what is called an Executive Order (EO), which allows the part to be sold, and installed on vehicles, in California.

All aftermarket parts sold in California belong to one of the following four groups:

a) *Replacement Parts*. Replacement parts include things like carburetors, distributers, fuel injection systems, and fuel tanks. Typically these are parts on a vehicle that wear out with use and must be replaced during the lifetime of the vehicle. When a replacement part does not meet the original factory

specifications it requires an Executive Order to be legal for street use.

b) *Legal Add-On or Modified Parts (Executive Order Parts)*. These parts alter a vehicle from its original equipment manufacturer configuration and are typically added on for safety or performance enhancement. Safety devices include antitheft devices; performance enhancers include air intake systems that cool an engine to increase horsepower or superchargers that increase air pressure in the engine allowing it to burn more fuel to increase power.

c) *Competition or Racing Use Only Parts*. These parts may only be sold and installed on vehicles that are exclusively used for competition off public highways and roads. These parts replace or otherwise interfere with the operation of an emission control device, such as a catalytic converter or oxygen sensor.

d) *Catalytic Converters*. Catalytic converters, as their name implies, catalyze (i.e., cause or accelerate) the conversion of toxic gases created during the combustion of fuel into less harmful ones. Catalytic converters can decrease the performance of an engine so some people chose to replace the catalytic converter that comes installed on a car with a more expensive one that reduces performance less.

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "California law prohibits the tampering with, and the sale, installation, or advertising of, emissions-related devices (aftermarket parts) unless the California Air Resources Board (CARB) determines the device complies with the state's emissions standards (VC § 27156). As such, the CARB Executive Order (EO) process is the only legal pathway for many emissions-related aftermarket parts to be legally sold or installed on vehicles in California. Because the small and medium-sized businesses that develop, manufacture, and sell these parts depend on the issuance of a CARB EO, the time it takes CARB to process and issue an EO directly affects these businesses and the consumers that rely on these parts.

   "Despite the creation of additional employment positions, a revised regulatory structure/application process, and the establishment of fees, processing times for EOs have not improved and continue to be a point of uncertainty for manufacturers which can create a sense of competitive disadvantage. Manufacturers depend on timely and predictable EO reviews to lawfully bring emissions-compliant products to market. Yet prolonged and inconsistent review

timelines continue to delay market entry, increase costs, and create uncertainty for businesses operating within the aftermarket sector. When processing times are opaque or can vary significantly, businesses may shift investment away from California or toward unregulated markets, undermining the goal of ensuring products are compliant with state emissions standards.

"In an effort to address this issue, SB 1069 would give CARB 30-days, upon receipt of an application for the issuance of an executive order to exempt an aftermarket part and any associated fees, to determine whether the application is complete. Once an application is deemed to be complete, CARB would then have 60-days to approve or deny it. The measure would further require CARB to approve or deny an amended application within 30 days of the denial of the original application. If CARB does not approve or deny an application within those timelines, it would be required to refund the applicant 50% of any fee collected for the application. The bill would also require the state board to submit a report to the Legislature on review and issuance timelines for executive orders issued to exempt aftermarket parts on or before March 1, 2028, and biennially thereafter until March 1, 2034."

2) *Longstanding problem.* Getting more aftermarket parts approved by CARB has been a long-standing request of the industry, and steps have been taken to attempt to address how long it takes. According to information provided by the author, nearly 10 years ago in 2017, SB 660 (Newman) would have provided a legislative basis for enabling industry to fund additional staff at CARB to better address the workload for EO applications. Ultimately, this legislation was set aside and instead, the Administration and the Legislature secured additional staff through the state budget process to accelerate the issuance of EOs, resulting in six additional staff in the Emissions Certification & Compliance Division at CARB.

   Recognizing that the new CARB positions required financial support, industry again worked with the Legislature, CARB, and stakeholders to provide a mechanism for funding these new positions. Consequently, additional budget action was taken to allow CARB to impose a reasonable fee on EO applications to help offset some of the costs of the staffing needed to improve processing times. In 2021, during the CARB hearing adopting the new fee on EO applications, CARB committed to reviewing the impact of the fee, and to reevaluating the processing times for EOs. However, subsequent budget constraints meant that some of the positions committed to processing EO

applications were removed. In late-2025, CARB began a stakeholder engagement process to attempt to honor these 2021 commitments.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- ARB estimates ongoing annual costs of $1.8 million (Air Pollution Control Fund and Motor Vehicle Account (MVA)) for seven positions and contract funds to make changes to its regulations (specifically the "Procedures for Exemption of Add-On and Modified Part(s) For On-Road Vehicles/Engines" and the "Mobile Source Certification and Compliance Fees" regulations); workload related to reviewing applications and providing written notices; providing guidance and outreach to manufacturers, Bureau of Automotive Repair, smog check stations, and other stakeholders to ensure consistent understanding of the law and prevent disruptions in vehicle registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); and enforcement-related tasks, such as audit testing and field investigations. According to DMV, MVA is projected to become insolvent as early as fiscal year (FY) 2028–29.

- By subjecting a manufacturer that fails to comply with a recall or corrective action plan required pursuant to this bill to civil penalties, this bill may result in cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown amount to the courts to adjudicate additional filings resulting from this bill. Costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in FY 2025-26.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) (source)
Advanced Flow Engineering, INC.
Banks Power
Edelbrock, LLC
Enthusiast Auto Care
Greddy Performance Products INC.
Hellion, INC.

Hp Tuners LLC
Jackson Racing
Jegs Automotive, LLC
Magnaflow
Magnuson Superchargers
Mdr Industries
Pedal Commander
Techart North America LLC
Vmp Performance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 8/19/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Blanca Rubio

Prepared by: Heather Walters / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/19/26 16:53:25

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1083
Author: Pérez (D)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Noncertificated public school employees: private school employees: egregious misconduct: statewide data system

SOURCE: AFSCME California
California Federation of Teachers
California School Employees Association
SEIU California

DIGEST: This bill 1) makes various changes to state law governing the investigation, reporting, and disclosure of egregious misconduct by noncertificated public school and private school employees; 2) revises the statewide data system and related responsibilities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), local educational agencies (LEAs), and private schools; 3) expands background check and misconduct-screening requirements for contractors providing services to pupils; and 4) makes related changes to mandated reporter training requirements for private schools.

Assembly Amendments: (1) broaden employment history inquiries and disclosures concerning egregious misconduct and require additional evidence preservation and information sharing with prospective employers and the CTC; (2) recast statewide data system requirements, including data fields, reporting and access procedures, confidentiality and privacy protections, and the respective responsibilities of the CTC, LEAs, and private schools; (3) revise investigation procedures and employee protections, including specified timelines and opportunities for employees to respond during investigations; (4) expanding CTC and Committee of Credentials authority relating to reports submitted through the statewide data system; (5) replace legislative intent regarding independent contractors with substantive criminal background check, misconduct disclosure, screening, and contractual requirements applicable to contractors and subcontractors providing specified services to pupils; and (6) require alternative mandated reporter training for private schools to be approved by the private school's governing authority rather than its liability insurance provider.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Expresses legislative intent that schools be safe environments free from violence, sexual offenses, and misconduct by school employees, volunteers, and contractors, and requires adoption of policies addressing professional boundaries and safe environments. (Education Code (EC) § 32100)

2) Requires school districts and county offices of education to adopt comprehensive school safety plans that include procedures for child abuse reporting, staff training, and responses to dangerous or unlawful activity. (EC §§ 32280–32282)

3) Requires LEAs and private schools to provide annual training on child abuse reporting and prevention, and requires specified alternative mandated reporter training to meet statutory requirements. (EC § 44691)

4) Prohibits agreements that prevent reporting egregious misconduct or expunge related records, except as specified. (EC § 44939.5)

5) Establishes hiring transparency requirements for noncertificated public school and private school employees, including requirements that applicants disclose prior school employment, hiring entities contact prior school employers regarding specified complaints, investigations, or discipline involving egregious misconduct, and prior employers provide specified information in response to those inquiries. (EC § 44051)

6) Requires the CTC, contingent upon an appropriation, to develop by July 1, 2027, a statewide data system relating to investigations and substantiated reports of egregious misconduct involving noncertificated LEA employees and private school employees. (EC § 44052)

7) Requires LEAs and private schools to submit specified employment and investigation information to the statewide data system, including information regarding the initiation and disposition of investigations and employees who leave employment during an investigation. (EC § 44052)

8) Requires LEAs and private schools to review the statewide data system before hiring an individual for an applicable position to determine whether an investigation resulted in a substantiated report of egregious misconduct. (EC § 44052)

9) Authorizes the CTC's Committee of Credentials to initiate review based on specified records entered into the statewide data system, including substantiated reports and records involving an employee who leaves employment during an investigation. (EC § 44242.5)

10) Requires specified entities contracting with an LEA to ensure that employees who interact with pupils have a valid criminal records summary, subject to specified exceptions and procedures. (EC § 45125.1)

This bill:

1) Revises employment history inquiries and disclosures regarding egregious misconduct by:

   a) Requiring inquiries and disclosures to encompass any credible complaints of, substantiated investigations into, or discipline for egregious misconduct, rather than limiting the information to matters used to support a substantiated investigation;

b) Requiring prior school employers to provide relevant evidence in addition to specified information;

c) Requiring responses to include reports of egregious misconduct submitted to the statewide data system and specified related employment history submitted to the CTC;

d) Requiring LEAs and private schools to provide relevant evidence or information to the CTC upon inquiry; and

e) Requiring preservation of evidence and information relating to substantiated reports of egregious misconduct.

2) Establishes an additional basis for dismissal related to undisclosed prior misconduct by providing that a school employee may be subject to dismissal when specified egregious misconduct involving previous school employment was reported to the statewide data system and either the previous employer failed to disclose the information or the employee failed to disclose the previous education employer, as specified.

3) Revises and recasts the statewide data system, including by:

a) Specifying that the system is for investigations of egregious misconduct;

b) Revising required data fields and the information LEAs and private schools submit and update;

c) Specifying the respective responsibilities of the CTC, LEAs, private schools, and merit system school districts;

d) Requiring the CTC to develop a secure interface through which authorized entities may access the system;

e) Requiring LEAs and private schools to request access to the system by May 1, 2027, and provide a designated email address for system notifications; and

f) Requiring preservation of information and evidence associated with substantiated reports entered into the system.

4) Establishes privacy, confidentiality, and access requirements for the statewide data system by limiting access to specified CTC employees and LEA and private school employees responsible for employment, employee investigations, or hiring decisions; requiring users to maintain confidentiality; exempting system data from disclosure under the California Public Records Act; and

exempting specified personal information maintained in the system from specified provisions of the Information Practices Act.

5) Establishes investigation requirements for allegations of egregious misconduct by:

   a) Requiring an LEA or private school, upon receiving a credible complaint or other reason to believe an employee engaged in egregious misconduct, to conduct an investigation;

   b) Establishing specified investigation timelines for LEAs;

   c) Requiring an LEA to provide the employee a reasonable opportunity to provide a statement and evidence to the investigator;

   d) Requiring an LEA, within 10 calendar days after completing an investigation, to provide the employee written notice of the findings;

   e) Requiring LEAs and private schools to complete investigations regardless of whether the employee ends the employment relationship; and

   f) Requiring each private school, by July 1, 2027, to adopt a written employee investigation policy containing specified procedures, timelines, and employee and employer rights and responsibilities.

6) Revises the CTC's authority and responsibilities relating to reports in the statewide data system by:

   a) Authorizing the Committee of Credentials to commence a formal review upon receipt of a substantiated report or specified record involving an employee who changes employment status during an investigation;

   b) Authorizing the CTC to request information and records from LEAs and private schools when investigating substantiated reports submitted to the statewide data system;

   c) Establishing a four-year period for presenting specified substantiated reports that do not involve sexual misconduct with a minor or recurring conduct constituting a pattern of misconduct to the Committee of Credentials for initial review; and

   d) Authorizing the CTC to require private schools to produce specified information, records, reports, and other data for credential misconduct reviews.

7) Expands criminal background check requirements for contractors and subcontractors providing services to pupils by:

   a) Requiring, rather than authorizing, the California Department of Education (CDE) to require specified employees, prospective employees, volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors to undergo state and federal criminal history background checks;

   b) Expanding existing criminal records summary requirements to specified contractors and subcontractors who interact with pupils or provide direct services to pupils;

   c) Narrowing an existing exception by requiring contractor employees and subcontractors relying upon the exception to remain under the immediate supervision and control of a school employee;

   d) Requiring criminal records verification for specified independent study contractors and eliminating the alternative of obtaining parental consent; and

   e) Requiring LEAs and CDE to include contract termination provisions for noncompliance with applicable background check requirements.

8) Establishes additional contract requirements for entities providing specified services to pupils, operative by July 1, 2027, including requirements that:

   a) LEAs, private schools, and CDE ensure applicable contracts contain and enforce specified background check requirements;

   b) Contractors and subcontractors disclose specified credible complaints of, or discipline for, reportable conduct involving employees or subcontractors who will provide services;

   c) LEAs, private schools, and CDE check specified contractor and subcontractor identifying information against the statewide data system or through specified alternative procedures; and

   d) Specified notifications be made when a credible complaint of egregious misconduct is received involving a contractor, subcontractor, or their employees performing services.

9) Revises private school mandated reporter training requirements to require an alternative mandated reporter training module to be approved by the private school's governing authority rather than its liability insurance provider.

10) Defines specified terms and makes related technical, clarifying, and conforming changes.

Comments

1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, "SB 1083 builds on the Safe Learning Environments Act (SB 848), which was enacted into law last year and established a statewide data system to track egregious misconduct by school employees. That law was an important step forward in improving transparency, strengthening accountability, and helping ensure that individuals with serious allegations cannot quietly move between school sites without scrutiny.

   But as implementation has moved forward, additional refinements are needed to ensure the system operates with consistency, fairness, and fully protects students. First, classified employees do not currently have a clearly defined, impartial review process comparable to what is provided to certificated employees. Existing law ensures that teachers receive due process, including a hearing and the ability to appeal to an Administrative Law Judge through the Office of Administrative Hearings. Without equivalent due process protections, investigations against them involving egregious misconduct can result in professional and personal consequences. SB 1083 addresses this by requiring an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether a classified employee should be added to the statewide data system. The bill also requires the statewide system to immediately notify a current employer when an employee leaves a local educational agency or private school before or during an investigation. This notice would inform the employer that a preliminary report has been filed, and an investigation is pending, to ensure that future employers are aware of any unresolved concerns.

   Second, while the existing framework established accountability for permanent employees, gaps remain for independent contractors and non-permanent individuals who interact directly with students. These individuals may have regular, unsupervised access to children, yet are not always subject to the same standards. SB 1083 ensures that appropriate vetting measures apply to them as well. Together, these improvements strengthen the system, promote fairness, and ensure that all individuals working with students are held to consistent standards, because student safety remains our highest priority."

2) *Follow-up to SB 848 and significant Assembly amendments.* Recent legislation from this author established a new statewide framework for identifying, reporting, and preventing egregious misconduct by school employees, particularly those in noncertificated positions. This bill represents a second

phase of that work, focused on refining how the system operates in practice. In particular, the bill addresses key implementation questions related to when and how misconduct information is reported and shared, how local investigations are conducted, and how hiring entities and the CTC use that information. These changes reflect the continuing challenge of designing a system that provides meaningful information to protect pupils while ensuring that information concerning employees is accurate, appropriately handled, and supported by a consistent investigative process.

3) *Completing investigations when an employee leaves.* A central purpose of the statewide data system is to address circumstances in which an employee accused of serious misconduct leaves one school employer before an investigation is completed and subsequently seeks employment elsewhere. Historically, an employee's departure could result in an investigation being discontinued, leaving a future school employer with limited information about the underlying allegations. This bill requires LEAs and private schools to complete investigations of egregious misconduct regardless of whether the employee ends the employment relationship. Requiring investigations to reach a conclusion strengthens the integrity of the statewide system by helping ensure that an employee's departure does not itself prevent potentially significant information from being developed and available to future school employers.

4) *Consistency and fairness in local investigations.* The usefulness of a statewide misconduct system depends in significant part on the quality of the local investigations underlying the information reported to it. This bill establishes additional requirements governing LEA investigations, including timelines, an opportunity for the employee to provide a statement and evidence to the investigator, and written notice of findings. Private schools are required to adopt written investigation policies addressing procedures, timelines, and the respective rights and responsibilities of employers and employees. Establishing clearer expectations for investigations may promote greater consistency and confidence in findings that can have significant consequences for both pupil safety and an employee's future employment.

5) *Employment history checks remain an important layer of protection.* The statewide data system is intended to provide school employers with a more consistent source of information regarding egregious misconduct, but it does not replace the role of employment history checks. This bill expands the information that school employers are required to exchange regarding credible complaints, substantiated investigations, and discipline for egregious misconduct and requires specified supporting evidence to be provided.

Maintaining both mechanisms recognizes that no single database is likely to capture all of the context relevant to a hiring decision and that direct communication between current and former school employers remains an important safeguard against employees moving between schools without appropriate scrutiny.

6) *Extending safeguards to contractors who serve pupils.* Schools increasingly rely on outside entities to provide educational, enrichment, therapeutic, and other services directly to pupils. Yet the distinction between an employee and a contractor may have little practical significance from the perspective of a pupil interacting with the adult providing the service. This bill expands criminal background check requirements for contractors and subcontractors who interact with or provide direct services to pupils and establishes additional requirements for screening specified contractor personnel for prior misconduct. These provisions seek to reduce gaps in pupil protections that can arise when services are delivered through contractual arrangements rather than by school employees.

7) *Implementation capacity at the CTC.* The statewide data system places significant new administrative responsibilities on the CTC, including development and maintenance of the system, management of access and notifications, and integration of reported information with the Commission's existing educator discipline processes. The 2026-27 Budget Act provides $1.4 million General Fund and 10 positions for CTC to implement these responsibilities. The ultimate workload associated with the system will depend on the volume and complexity of information submitted by school employers and the extent to which those reports generate additional work for the Committee of Credentials and CTC staff. Successful implementation will therefore depend not only on the statutory framework, but also on the Commission's ability to develop a secure and functional system and provide sufficient guidance to the thousands of public and private school employers expected to use it.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill would result in the following:

1) Potential ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to LEAs, of an unknown but potentially significant amount, possibly in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars annually, cumulatively statewide, to conduct

required egregious misconduct investigations within the timelines and parameters prescribed by the bill.

2) One-time General Fund costs of $1,178,000 and ongoing costs of $1,164,000 on an annual basis for CTC to hire additional analytical and legal staff to handle the anticipated significant increase in potential litigation, records request, public and private inquiries, support to LEAs, and internal staff training necessary to implement the bill.

3) Minor and absorbable costs to the DOJ, and no costs to the CDE.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to LEAs or provide funding through the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

AFSCME California (co-source)
California Federation of Teachers (co-source)
California School Employees Association (co-source)
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Labor Federation
California State Council of Service Employees International Union

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Association of Suburban School Districts
California Association of Suburban Schools
Charter Schools Development Center
Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/25/26 16:17:21

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1085
Author: Durazo (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Cortese, Stern
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 35-1, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NOES: Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Becker, Jones, Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Water supply planning: housing developments

SOURCE: East Bay Municipal Water District

DIGEST: Restores a requirement that cities and counties approving certain projects identify a water system that would supply water for that project and complete a water supply assessment (WSA).

Assembly Amendments match the definition of "project" to the definition in existing law and state a WSA is only subject to judicial review when it is being

challenged as part of a city or county's certification of an environmental impact report, or adoption of a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration, for a housing development project or when it's being challenged as part of a non-housing development project.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires cities and counties that determine a project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to comply with certain water supply planning requirements.

2) Defines, for purposes of water supply planning, a "project" as any proposed:

   a) Residential development of more than 500 dwelling units.

   b) Shopping center or business establishment employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 500,000 square feet of floor space.

   c) Commercial office building employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 250,000 square feet of floor space.

   d) Hotel or motel, or both, having more than 500 rooms.

   e) Industrial, manufacturing, or processing plant, or industrial park planned to house more than 1,000 persons, occupying more than 40 acres of land, or having more than 650,000 square feet of floor area.

   f) Mixed-use project that includes one or more of the above-described projects.

   g) Project that would demand an amount of water equal to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 dwelling unit project.

   h) Residential, business, commercial, hotel or motel, industrial development or mixed use development that would – where a public water system has fewer than 5,000 service connections – increase the number of service connections by 10% percent or more.

3) Requires the city or county to identify a water system to serve a proposed project and if one isn't identifiable, the city or county must prepare a WSA.

4) Exempts from CEQA – and by extension, from the requirement to prepare a WSA – a number of development projects listed in (2) above.

This bill:

1) Requires a city or county to identify a water system that will serve a project and requires that water system – or the city or county if no water system is identified – to prepare a WSA once:

   a) An applicant submits a preliminary application for a housing development project that meets certain conditions, including that the project not be larger than 20 acres; or

   b) The county or city determines a development project application is completed and does not meet the conditions of (a).

2) Requires the city or county, within 15 days of the application, to request the public water system to determine if the water demand of the project was included in the most recent urban water management plan (UWMP).

3) Develops an expedited timeline of 45 days to complete a WSA for projects that comply with (1)(a) above or are affordable housing projects. Also allows the city or county to seek a writ of mandamus to compel the public water system to submit the WSA if it fails to do so.

4) Determines the WSA is an informational document and not a final agency action subject to judicial review except when:

   a) A challenge is made to a city or county's CEQA documentation for a housing development project that is a WSA project; or

   b) A challenge is made to a city or county's approval or disapproval of a WSA project that is not a housing development project.

5) States it does subject a project to:

   a) Discretionary review by a city or county if the project is required to be permitted ministerially; or

   b) The requirements of the CEQA if the project is exempt from CEQA.

Background\

"Show Me The ... Water." California's efforts to better align development decisions with available water resources stem largely from two statutes enacted in 2001. The laws were adopted in response to concerns that local governments were approving development projects without adequately considering whether sufficient

water supplies existed to support those projects. The two 2001 measures established new requirements to integrate water supply considerations into the land use approval process.

The trigger for a city or county to request a WSA from a water supplier (or do it themselves) is when it determines certain large-scale projects are also subject to CEQA. A WSA requires any existing water supply entitlements, water rights, or relevant water service contracts to be identified for the proposed project, and a description of the amount of water received in prior years by the public water system or the city or county through its water rights or other sources. The WSA must be completed within 90 days of the request by the city or county, though the water system may request a 30-day extension. Once completed, the WSA must be incorporated into project's CEQA analysis.

Feeling The Need For Speed, But Not Water? In an effort to speed up the permitting process, the Legislature has enacted various CEQA exemptions and converted certain projects to only require ministerial approval from a local government over the past several years. Last year, SB 131 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025) and AB 130 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) created several new CEQA exemptions. As noted above, a city or county is required to initiate a WSA request once it determines what kind of CEQA documentation is needed for that project. The enactment of SB 131 and AB 130 exempted many projects, such as advanced manufacturing facilities, maintenance facilities for electrically powered high-speed rail, and certain larger housing development projects, from not just CEQA but also from the water planning requirements in law.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill:* According to the author, the bill "… restores an important, long-standing safeguard on water availability for large new developments that was inadvertently circumvented through recent legislation. For more than two decades, state law has required [WSAs] for certain large development projects to strengthen the link between land use planning and water supply planning. These assessments ensure that local governments have a clear, forward-looking understanding of whether sufficient water supplies exist to serve new development alongside existing and planned uses over a 20-year horizon.

"In recent years, the Legislature has appropriately focused on removing barriers to housing development, including through CEQA streamlining and exemptions. However, because WSAs are currently triggered by CEQA, these changes have had the unintended effect of removing this key planning tool for projects that

still meet large development thresholds. Without a WSA, cities and counties may lack critical information about water demand and long-term supply reliability.

"At a time when climate change is increasing pressure on California's water systems, [this bill] ensures that this proven planning tool remains in place to support informed decision-making and sustainable growth."

2) *Keep Your CEQA Exemption, But Not Your Water Planning Exemption*. The bill does not reverse the CEQA exemptions granted to certain projects under last year's SB 131 and AB 130. However, it does make it clear that projects benefitting from those CEQA exemptions do have to comply with the water planning laws that applied to them prior to the exemptions being created.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, the bill imposes a state-mandated local program, but these costs are not state-reimbursable.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

East Bay Municipal Utilities District (source)
American Planning Association, California Chapter
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
California Building Industry Association
California Coastkeeper Alliance
California Environmental Voters
California Farm Bureau
California Municipal Utilities Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
California Water Association
City of Sacramento
City of Sacramento Department of Utilities
Clean Earth 4 Kids
Clean Water Action California
Community Water Center
Community Alliance With Family Farmers
Contra Costa Water District
Defenders of Wildlife
Friends of the River
Irvine Ranch Water District

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability
Mono Lake Committee
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Planning and Conservation League
Rancho California Water District
Regional Water Authority
San Francisco Baykeeper
San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Sierra Club California
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California
Trout Unlimited
Unite Here International Union, Afl-cio
Valley Water
Western Municipal Water District
Wholly H2O

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Abundant Housing Los Angeles
California Council for Affordable Housing
California YIMBY
SPUR

Prepared by: Evan Goldberg / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/26/26 15:34:30

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1088
Author: Blakespear (D)
Amended: 6/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 6/29/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Health care decisions: life-sustaining treatment

SOURCE: Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

DIGEST: This bill brings consistency in authorized signatories for requests regarding resuscitative measures, allows electronic signatures on Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment forms (renames to Portable Orders Listing Scope of Treatment [POLST]), recognizes out-of-state requests regarding resuscitative measures to the same extent as a POLST executed in California, requires POLSTs to be dated, and where there are two POLSTs, the dated form to be considered

most recent. Requires requests regarding resuscitative measures to be voluntary. Allows a physician or other health care provider to assume a request regarding resuscitative measures is valid and unrevoked.

Assembly Amendments revise references to interdisciplinary teams under the definition of surrogate. Clarify that a conservator must have health care decisionmaking authority. Clarify nurse practitioners without specified authorization are acting under the supervision of the physician. Delete the requirement that a POLST form be dated and the dated form to be treated as the more updated POLST.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes POLST and authorizes a legally recognized health care decisionmaker to execute the POLST order only if the individual lacks capacity, or the individual has designated a decisionmaker, as specified. Establishes the POLST eRegistry Act administered by EMSA. [Probate Code (PROB) § 4780-4786 and Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1860-1863]

2) Defines "POLST" as a form that is a request regarding resuscitative measures that directs a health care provider regarding resuscitative and life-sustaining measures. Requires POLST to be completed by a health care provider based on patient preferences, and signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant acting under the supervision of the physician. [HSC §1861 and PROB §4780]

3) Defines "request regarding resuscitative measures" as a written document signed by an individual with capacity, or a legally recognized health care decisionmaker, and the individual's physician, that directs a health care provider regarding resuscitative measures. This request is not an Advanced Health Care Directive (AHCD). Indicates a request regarding resuscitative measures can be a prehospital "do not resuscitate form" (DNR) or a POLST. [PROB §4780]

4) Authorizes nurse practitioners to perform specified functions if specified requirements are met, such as passing a national nurse practitioner board certification exam, and indicates they type of settings such nurse practitioners can practice, such as health and hospice facilities. Authorizes nurse

practitioners who hold an active certification to practice outside of certain settings based on specified conditions. [BPC §2837.103 and§ 2837.104]

This bill:

1) Allows the following individuals to be signatories on a "request regarding resuscitative measures": a health care agent, conservator with health care decisionmaking authority, or surrogate, nurse practitioner practicing under specified authority, nurse practitioner or physician assistant acting under the supervision of the physician.

2) Replaces the term "legally recognized health care decisionmaker" with "health care agent, conservator, or surrogate," to describe who may execute a POLST.

3) Defines "surrogate" as the term exists in specified existing law and includes a facility's interdisciplinary team in overseeing the care of a resident, as specified.

4) Requires an electronic signature to be sufficient for any signature required for a request regarding resuscitative measures.

5) Requires a request regarding resuscitative measures in any form to be entirely voluntarily and prohibits the provision of care or admission to a facility from being conditioned on completion of or refusal to complete a POLST form or DNR order.

6) Requires a request regarding resuscitative measures or substantially similar instrument executed in another state or jurisdiction in compliance with the laws of that state or jurisdiction or of this state to be valid and enforceable in California to the same extent as a POLST form validly executed in California.

7) Allows in the absence of knowledge to the contrary, a physician or other health care provider to presume a request regarding resuscitative measures, whether executed in another state or jurisdiction or in California, to be valid and unrevoked.

Background

According to EMSA, POLST is approved by EMSA and the Commission on EMS and was developed by the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (CCCC). POLST is a medical order that gives seriously ill patients more control

over their care by specifying the type of medical treatment a patient wishes to receive at the end of life. The EMSA approved POLST must be signed and dated by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant acting under the supervision of the physician, and the patient or legally recognized health care decisionmaker, and should be clearly posted or maintained near the patient. It is recommended that POLST be copied on bright pink paper to help ensure that the document stands out and is followed, however any color is valid. The POLST form is available for free on EMSA's website. EMSA states that the prehospital DNR is an official document developed by EMSA, in concert with the California Medical Association (CMA), and EMS providers, for the purposes of instructing EMS personnel regarding a patient's decision to forgo resuscitative measures in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest. Resuscitative measures to be withheld include chest compressions, assisted ventilation, endotracheal intubation, defibrillation, and drugs which stimulate the heart. The form does not affect the provision of life sustaining measures such as artificial nutrition or hydration or the provision of other emergency medical care, including treatment for pain, difficulty breathing, major bleeding, or other medical conditions. The DNR must be signed by the patient or by the patient's legally recognized health care decisionmaker if the patient is unable to make or communicate informed health care decisions. The patient's physician must also sign the form, affirming that the patient/legally recognized health care decisionmaker has given informed consent. The DNR should be clearly posted or maintained near the patient. The DNR form is available to order for a small cost on the CMA's website.

Comments

According to the author of this bill, "People should have control over the end of their lives and the care they receive, even if they are unconscious. This bill updates the name of POLST—from Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment to Portable Orders Listing Scope of Treatment—in recognition that nurse practitioners and physician assistants can sign them. It also creates a presumption that POLST and prehospital DNRs from out-of-state are valid the same way as are out-of-state advance directives. Finally, it allows electronic signatures to help the transition to a statewide electronic POLST registry. By aligning advance care directives, POLSTs, and prehospital DNRs, this bill ensures there are no ambiguities or uncertainties about end-of-life care."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/30/26)

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (source)
A Better Exit
Alliance of Catholic Health Care
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Assisted Living Association
California Association for Nurse Practitioners
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine
California Catholic Conference
California Medical Association
Compassion & Choices
End of Life Choices, California
Hemlock Society of San Diego
LeadingAge California
My Directives, Inc.
Five individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/30/26)

California Clinical Nurse Specialist Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill's sponsor, CCCC, intends for this bill to correct misunderstandings and misalignments with advance care planning tools such as the AHCD, prehospital DNR, and POLST. According to CCCC, this bill aligns these tools by recognizing the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in end-of-life and other crisis decisions making and allowing them to sign prehospital DNR orders as well as POLST. CCCC writes, "This bill renames POLST to better reflect the range of authorized signing providers and its broad purpose in specifying treatments beyond life-sustaining or end-of-life care, more clearly identifies which surrogates and authority apply when signing a POLST on behalf of an incapacitated patient, and, ensures continuity of care across state lines by creating a presumption of validity for POLST or DNR executed out of California." The California Association of Health Facilities writes, "This bill puts patients first by reducing confusion, strengthening continuity of care, and ensuring that person's medical wishes are honored when they matter most." The California Academy of Family Physicians believes this bill ensures patients wishes are honored, facilitates informed decision-making, and enables physicians, patients, and families to collaborate in providing compassionate, patient-centered care at the

end of life. Alzheimer's Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego write that a POLST plays an important role in ensuring that people with Alzheimer's and other dementias can get the care that they want and prevent them from getting treatments they do not want.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CACNS) is opposed unless amended and requests an amendment to include Clinical Nurse Specialists, acting within their scope of practice, to be explicitly authorized to sign POLST forms. CACNS writes that Clinical Nurse Specialists bring the same and often greater education and clinical expertise as other advanced practice roles included in this bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Boerner, Carrillo, Lackey, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
7/1/26 16:55:31

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1089
Author: Richardson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Preventive Treatment Health Care Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill adds at least one glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) antiobesity weight medication approved by the federal U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to existing authority granted to the California Health and Human Services Agency under the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020 (also

referred to as CalRx), for purposes of entering into partnerships, if needed, to increase competition, lower prices, and address supply shortages.

Assembly Amendments delete provisions that would have required a health benefit plan contract with the California Public Employees' Retirement System to offer coverage for chronic weight disease management or to treat obesity or overweight persons, including nutritional information and at least one GLP-1 weight medication approved by the FDA, with a sunset provision of January 1, 2031. Includes in the definition of GLP-1 antiobesity weight management medication, future weight management medications in this category.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA), which consists of the following departments and offices: Aging, Child Support Services, Community Services and Development, Developmental Services, Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Health Care Services, Managed Health Care (DMHC), Public Health, Rehabilitation, Social Services, State Hospitals, the Center for Data Insights and Innovation, the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Office of Technology and Solutions Integration, the Office of Law Enforcement Support, the Office of the Surgeon General, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. [Government Code (GOV) §12803 and §12806]

2) Requires CHHSA or its departments, under the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020, to enter into partnerships to increase competition, lower prices, and address shortages in the market for generic prescription drugs, to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, as specified, and to increase patient access to affordable drugs. This program is referred to as CalRx. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §127692(a)]

3) Requires CalRx to enter into partnerships resulting in the production, procurement or distribution of generic drugs, with the intent that these drugs be made widely available to public and private purchasers, providers and suppliers, and pharmacies. Requires the generic drugs to be produced or distributed by a drug company or generic drug manufacturer that is registered with the FDA. Requires CalRx to only enter into partnerships to produce generic drugs at a price that results in savings, targets failures in the market for generic drugs, and

improves patient access to affordable medications. [HSC §127693(a) and §127693(b)]

4) Requires, in identifying generic prescription drugs to be produced, CHHSA to consider reports on prescription drug costs published by DMHC and the Department of Insurance, and pharmacy spending data from Medi-Cal and other entities for which the state pays the cost of generic prescription drugs. Requires the partnerships to include the production of at least one form of insulin, provided that a viable pathway for manufacturing a more affordable form of insulin exists. [HSC §127693(c)(1) and (2)]

5) Authorizes CalRx, subject to appropriation, to enter into partnerships to increase competition, lower prices, and address supply shortages for: over-the-counter naloxone products; generic or brand name drugs to address emerging health concerns, including reproductive health care or gender affirming health care; development, production, procurement, or distribution of vaccines, as specified; and, the manufacture, purchase, or distribution of medical supplies or medication devices. [HSC §127697]

This bill:

1) States intent to increase access to affordable glucagoin-like-peptide-1 (GLP-1) weight management medications in California.

2) Authorizes CHHSA to, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, enter into partnerships, if needed, to increase competition, lower prices, and address supply shortages for at least one GLP-1 antiobesity medication approved by the FDA.

3) Defines GLP-1 antiobesity medication approved by the FDA includes a GLP-1, GLP-1 receptor agonist, glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide plus GLP-1, GLP-1 receptor dual agonist, or tirzepatide, and future weight management medications in this category.

4) Requires CHHSA to also establish distribution partners, if needed, and make its best effort to negotiate pricing at or lower than the cost to Medi-Cal beneficiaries in 2025.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

Chronic weight disease is a serious problem in the United States. There are approximately 24.5 million adults between the ages of 18-64 years living in California. According to UCLA's California Health Interview Survey, nearly 61% of California adults fall into the combined overweight/obese category, which is associated with 200 morbid conditions, including 13 types of cancer. Chronic weight management can be related to reduced labor participation and earnings, increased early mortality, absenteeism, disability and healthcare costs exceeding $1 billion and a 2.6% reduction in the California Gross Domestic Product. California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) health insurance covers more than 1.5 million public employees. As the largest purchaser of public employee health benefits in California, the program provides coverage for over 1,200 public agencies and schools. This bill will require CalPERS to offer GLP-1s as an optional benefit through their health plan to reduce chronic weight management and reduce overall employer costs. Federal Executive Order authorized the Most-Favored-Nation Prescription Drug Pricing. This included offering GLP-1 medications at negotiated rate of $149 - $350 per month. These lower prices will be available through the Trump Rx platform. With CalRx offering affordable cost of $245 per month, 20% of California adults will reduce costs and employees will be more productive creating workforce savings.

Background

The Medicaid Drug Rebate Program provides a rebate to states for a portion of the Medicaid payment for each drug. The rebate is shared with the federal government. In return most manufacturer's drugs are covered under state Medicaid programs. Some drugs or classes of drugs may be excluded from coverage, including drugs for weight loss. As of January 2026, 13 states covered GLP-1s for obesity treatment under Medicaid. Beginning in 2022, California consolidated pharmacy benefits under one system called Medi-Cal Rx, where the state pays for all drug claims on a fee-for-service basis, including for people in Medi-Cal managed care plans. Because of significant growth in the state's pharmacy spending including for GLP-1 Agonists, in October 2025 pursuant to the enacted 2025-26 California state budget, Medi-Cal Rx announced that it will continue to cover GLP-1 medication when used for indications approved by the FDA, such as treating type 2 diabetes, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and chronic kidney disease. Three drugs for weight loss or weight-loss indications would no longer be covered effective January 1, 2026. Coverage would continue for certain FDA-approved indications and for people younger than 21 years of age pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment benefit. The Budget Act of 2025

included General Fund savings of $85 million, increasing to $680 million annually by 2028-29 from the elimination of Medi-Cal coverage of GLP-1 drugs.

CalRx program currently produces Insulin Glargine at $55 for a five-pack of 3mLpens and leverages the state's purchasing power to buy naloxone at a reduced cost (twin pack of over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray for $19). CalRx also plans to launch a centralized ordering system to supply California schools with albuterol inhalers and single-use disposable spacers at no cost over a three-year period beginning this summer. At an April 9, 2026, Senate Budget Health and Human Services Subcommittee hearing HCAI's director indicated that GLP-1 antiobesity medications are among the drugs CalRx is considering for future inclusion.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, HCAI estimates one-time costs of several million dollars to establish partnerships for development, distribution, or procurement of a GLP-1 and ongoing costs, likely several thousand dollars per year, for two staff positions (General Fund). Eventually, sales of the drug should cover the costs of manufacturing or contracting.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

American Diabetes Association
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Black Health Network
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Life Sciences
California Orthopedic Association
California Primary Care Association
California Rheumatology Alliance
Los Angeles County Medical Association
Los Angeles LGBT Center
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

1 individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The American Diabetes Association (ADA) writes that GLP-1 and GLP-1RA medications have proven transformative in the management of type 2 diabetes and obesity, improving blood glucose control,

reducing cardiovascular risk, and contributing to meaningful weight reduction, yet access to these medications remains severely limited for many Californians due to inconsistent insurance coverage. The ADA supports efforts that bring evidence-based, life-saving diabetes therapies within reach of all who need them—particularly those in low-income and working-class populations who face the greatest barriers to consistent care. The ADA indicates this bill aligns with their mission to prevent type 2 diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by it. California Primary Care Association (CPCA) Advocates write this bill is particularly important for community health centers and their patients. CPCA Advocates indicates the high cost of these drugs has placed them out of reach for many patients who are uninsured or underinsured. They write that this bill will help community health clinics provide more effective, evidence-based care.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: An individual writing on behalf of the California Small Business Association writes to express opposition to "costly health care mandates that are threatening the sustainability of employer-sponsored health care coverage" and lists four bills including this bill.

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 17:06:59

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1091
Author: Caballero (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 3/17/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Ashby, Cabaldon, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, McNerney, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 34-2, 5/20/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Choi, Jones
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Program

SOURCE: California Community Land Trust Network
Enterprise Community Partners
Housing California
Public Advocates

DIGEST: This bill creates a new Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) program, the Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Program (CAPP), to fund the acquisition and rehabilitation of unrestricted housing units and attach long-term affordability restrictions.

Assembly Amendments make minor, clarifying changes regarding program management and funding.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law

1) Establishes several housing programs that finance housing rehabilitation, including, but not limited to:

   a) Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) – administered by HCD, finances the new construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of permanent and transitional rental housing for lower-income households.

   b) Joe Serna Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program – administered by HCD, finances the new construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of owner-occupied and rental units for agricultural workers, with a priority for lower-income households.

   c) Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Strategies (AHSC) – administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and implemented by HCD, funds land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill:

1) Establishes CAPP for funding the acquisition and rehabilitation of unrestricted housing units and attaching long-term affordability restrictions, while safeguarding against the displacement of current residents.

2) Includes the following definitions:

   a) "Administering entity" means the program manager or a regional housing entity administering funds allocated by the department.

b) "Capitalized operating subsidy reserve" means funds that are set aside before a property is acquired pursuant to this chapter to cover the property's operating expenses over time.

c) "Department" means the Department of Housing and Community Development.

d) "Eligible borrower" means an entity that is at least one of the following:

   i. A nonprofit corporation that has a principal place of business in the state and whose primary mission includes the development or ownership of housing that is affordable to low-income households and that has demonstrated experience in acquiring, rehabilitating, and operating multifamily housing for the benefit of low-income households.

   ii. A community land trust, as defined in clause (ii) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) of Section 402.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

   iii. A limited partnership in which the managing general partner is a nonprofit corporation described in subparagraph (A) or a community land trust described in subparagraph (B) and that has a principal place of business in the state.

   iv. A limited liability company in which the managing member is a nonprofit corporation described in subparagraph (A) or a community land trust described in subparagraph (B) and that has a principal place of business in the state.

   v. A limited-equity housing cooperative as defined in Section 817 of the Civil Code.

   vi. A local public entity.

e) "Local public entity" means a public entity in the state, including a city, county, city and county, public housing authority, regional housing finance authority, and successor agency to a former redevelopment agency.

f) "Low-income households" has the same meaning as "lower income households" in Section 50079.5.

g) "Program manager" means a private sector entity or consortium selected by the department to manage the program.

h) "Regional housing entity" means any of the following:

i. The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority, as defined.

ii. The Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency, as defined.

iii. A regional housing finance authority created locally, including, but not limited to, those created under the Regional Housing Finance Act.

i) "Rehabilitation" means rehabilitation work necessary to meet health, safety, and quality of life needs, as determined by standards established by the department.

j) "Tenant protections under state law" means the protections specified in the Civil Code and in the California Fair Employment and Housing Act.

k) "Unrestricted housing" means a housing development, as defined, that is not currently subject to a recorded deed restriction limiting occupancy to households at specified income levels and rents to levels affordable at those income levels. Mixed-use buildings are eligible if the majority of the building square footage is used for residential purposes.

3) Requires HCD to adopt regulations for the operation of the program on or before July 1, 2028. The adoption of those regulations is exempted from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

4) Establishes the Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Fund in the State Treasury, with all money in the fund to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to HCD; and limits administrative expenses and technical assistance expenditures to 5% of the funds' deposits for each.

5) Provides that the following moneys shall be paid into the fund:

a) Any moneys appropriated and made available by the Legislature.

b) Any moneys that the department receives in repayment of loans made from the fund, including interest therefrom.

c) Any other moneys that may be made available to the department for purposes of this chapter from any other source.

6) Requires HCD to select a program manager that is a non-profit entity or consortium to manage CAPP for a period of five years meeting specified standards, including originating and servicing loans for affordable housing, covering the state geographically, and having the ability to work on housing models including rental housing, affordable homeownership, and community land trusts.

7) Requires the program manager to make loans to eligible borrowers based on underwriting guidelines approved by HCD, and requires rental housing purchased through CAPP to be deed restricted for 55 years, and homeownership units for at least 45 years.

8) Allows HCD to issue grants and loans to local public entities to fund the acquisition and rehabilitation of unrestricted housing units and attach long-term affordability restrictions on the housing units, while safeguarding against the displacement of current residents.

9) Requires all tenant protections under state law, or a more protective local policy, other than rent stabilization, to apply to tenants of projects funded by CAPP.

10) Requires HCD to require in its regulations and regulatory agreement, standards for annual rent increases, with a goal of ensuring affordability for current and future residents.

11) Requires HCD to develop technical assistance and capacity building for the development and ongoing operation of projects funded by CAPP.

Comments

1) *Author's statement.* "As California's affordable housing crisis worsens, unsubsidized affordable housing is disappearing, and fewer low-income families can find stable housing. As rent outpaces demand, housing becomes less accessible and more unaffordable, displacing people from their homes and communities. To address this, SB 1091 will create the Community Anti-

Displacement and Preservation Program (CAPP). The purpose of CAPP is to stabilize low-income families and tenant displacement through the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing rental housing. The conversion of this housing into long-term affordable options will keep families housed and in their communities. Acquisition and preservation of unsubsidized affordable housing is a proven successful local model that prevents displacement and grows the supply of affordable housing. SB 1091 is one important step to avoid displacement, homelessness, and to stabilize families in their communities in homes they can afford."

2) *An affordable housing crisis decades in the making.* Decades of insufficient housing production – particularly that at levels which lower- and middle-income Californians can afford without burden – have created a severe strain on the state's housing supply. Further, exclusionary policies have deepened racial and class disparities in housing access and affordability. As a result, working class Californians bear the brunt of the inaction – 56% of California renting households are rent burdened (an increase of 55% since 1970), and 30% are severely rent burdened (a 65% increase over the same period).[1]

3) *Subsidized affordable housing units.* Since the 1960s, developers have constructed at least 425,000 units of affordable rental housing in California with the assistance of federal, state, and local subsidies that require owners to maintain rents at affordable levels for specified periods of time. Examples include: federal project-based Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgages, low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), state housing programs, and city and county redevelopment funds. The affordability restrictions on assisted units typically last 30 to 55 years, depending on the program. Once affordability obligations expire, owners may preserve the affordability of the units by renewing assistance or by refinancing with new public subsidies. Alternatively, they may convert the development to market rate. Under some federal programs, owners can also terminate affordability restrictions early by prepaying the underlying mortgage or opting out of the rental assistance contract. According to the California Housing Partnership, 6,800 subsidized affordable rental homes may no longer be affordable as soon as next year due to the loss of federal, state and local

[1] Natalia Vega Varela and Nancy L. Cohen. *The Origins of California's Housing Crisis*. Accessible here: **https://thegepi.org/the-origins-of-californias-housing-crisis/**. June 2024.

protections. Nearly 48,000 could lose their affordability within 10 years if nothing is done.[2]

4) *Unsubsidized affordable housing units.* These units are affordable without subsidy due to a variety of factors, including age, location and other market factors; however, as costs rise and housing supply is further constrained, an increasing number of these units will be at risk for increased rents or sale on the private market. When no public subsidy or agreement is attached to these units, they are much more susceptible to market pressures and have much greater flexibility than subsidized units to do as they please, without regard for how it will affect the housing security of the resident(s).

5) *Going, going, gone.* According to the California Housing Partnership, approximately 39,738 unsubsidized affordable homes are currently at very high risk of losing their affordability with an additional 268,693 to 333,819 homes at high or moderate risk in five years. Since mid-2020, an estimated 189,051 formerly unsubsidized affordable homes were no longer affordable to low-income households.[3] This bill seeks to curb these trends by acquiring and rehabilitating unsubsidized affordable housing stock that is at risk of conversion to market rate housing. CAPP could empower public housing agencies to make strategic investments in qualified developers who are skilled at doing the work necessary to meet health, safety, and quality of life needs, as determined by standards established by the department. New affordable housing construction is notoriously expensive, so the cost savings generated by preserving existing housing stock could be passed along to provide even more affordable units.

6) *The role of HCD.* This program would require HCD to designate a non-profit lender or consortium of lenders to oversee the distribution of bond monies to local public entities in charge of selecting eligible borrowers. These local public entities include public housing authorities, regional housing finance authorities, and successors to redevelopment agencies. Eligible borrowers would be responsible for the acquisition and rehabilitation of eligible housing units with technical assistance and capacity building provided by HCD. HCD would also be responsible for ensuring long-term affordability covenants are enforced and eligible tenants are not evicted without just cause.

7) *Third time's the charm.* Similar legislation has been introduced two other times. SB 490 (Caballero, 2021) would have provided technical assistance to

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[2] Danielle M. Mazzella. Affordable Homes At-Risk Report. Accessible here: **https://calhousingpartnership.org/affordable-homes-at-risk-report/**. April 2025.
[3] Matt Alvarez-Nissen. *Unsubsidized Affordable Homes At-Risk Report.* Accessible here: **https://calhousingpartnership.org/unsubsidized-affordable-homes-at-risk-report/**. April 2025.

qualified program managers levying CAPP funds, if authorized in the Governor's budget. SB 225 (Caballero, 2023) was near-identical to this bill, except it would have permitted developments with 1-4 units, not just 5 and above, to be eligible for acquisition and rehabilitation.

8) *Double-referral.* This bill was also heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 14, 2026, where it received a vote of 11-0.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Ongoing cost pressures (bond funds, General Fund) likely in the hundreds of millions of dollars to provide grant and loan funding for CAPP.

   SB 417 (Limon), Chapter 16, Statutes of 2026, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026, places a $11.25 billion bond on the November 3, 2026, ballot to fund veteran′s home ownership program and affordable housing programs. The bond provides $200 million for a program to be created by the Legislature, such as the program created by this bill, that funds acquisition and rehabilitation of unrestricted housing units and the attachment of long-term affordability restrictions to the units. Funding would be available for CAPP if the pending bond measure is approved by the voters.

   Absent the availability of housing bond revenues, this bill would create significant General Fund cost pressures to fund the CAPP. The Budget Act of 2026 does not provide funding for this program.

2) HCD would likely incur ongoing administrative costs (CAPP Fund, General Fund) in the low millions of dollars annually to establish and implement CAPP, based on past estimates of similar bills. The bill specifies that HCD′s administrative costs may not exceed 5% of the moneys deposited into the CAPP Fund and allows up to 5% more of the fund to be used to provide technical assistance and capacity building. HCD indicates these allowances would likely be sufficient to cover the program′s design and implementation depending on the total amount of funding made available. Any costs exceeding the allowances in the bill would necessarily be covered by the General Fund.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Community Land Trust Network (Co-source)
Enterprise Community Partners, INC. (Co-source)
Housing California (Co-source)

Public Advocates (Co-source)
Acce Action (alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment)
Act-la
American Planning Association, California Chapter
Bay Area Lisc
Beverly-vermont Community Land Trust
California Center for Movement Legal Services
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Chinatown Community Development Center
City of Sunnyvale
Courage California
Day Worker Center of Mountain View
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
East Bay Housing Organizations
East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative
Eden Community Land Trust
Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Health in Partnership
Housing Accelerator Fund
Housing for All Long Beach Community Land Trust
Housing Now!
Inland Equity Community Land Trusts
Irvine Community Land Trust
Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Long Beach Forward
Long Beach Residents Empowered
Mission Economic Development Agency
National Housing Law Project
Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, INC.
Noho Home Alliance
Oakland Community Land Trust
Oakland Tenants Union
Pahali Community Land Trust in East Palo Alto
Parable of the Sower Intentional Community Cooperative
Pico California
Public Interest Law Project
Ruchell Cique Magee Community Land Trust Riverside
Sacramento Community Land Trust

Sacramento Housing Alliance
Saint Joseph Community Land Trust
San Diego Housing Federation
San Francisco Community Land Trust
San Francisco Tenants Union
San Gabriel Valley Community Land Trust
Sgv Casita
South Bay Community Land Trust
Starting Over Strong
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
T.r.u.s.t. South LA
Tenants Together
Tenants United Anaheim
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
Thai Community Development Center
The Unity Council
Tierras Indigenas Community Land Trust
Two Valleys Community Land Trust
Urban Habitat
Western Center on Law and Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Those writing in support of this bill argue that it would prevent displacement and homelessness by stabilizing low-income families in their communities, while also growing California's supply of deed-restricted affordable homes for the future.

Prepared by: Ryan Hardmeyer / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/25/26 13:06:13

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1094
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Prescription drugs

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires a health plan or insurer to cover a lower-cost biosimilar if it covers a brand-name biological product. Authorizes health plans and insurers, upon 60 days' notice to enrollees, insureds, and prescribing providers,

to require enrollees/insureds currently prescribed a biological product to try a biosimilar when available at the same or lower cost-sharing unless the prescribing provider indicates not to substitute. Authorizes a pharmacist to substitute a reference product with a biosimilar when available to the patient at the same or lower cost-sharing unless the prescribing provider indicates not to substitute.

Assembly Amendments require plans and insurers to cover at least one lower-net-cost biosimilar if they cover a reference product, restrict the ability of a plan or insurer to require an enrollee or insured to try an alternative product in which the entity has a direct or indirect financial interest, and expand regulators' ability to implement plan and insurer reporting requirements. Assembly amendments also bolster and broaden plan and insurer notification requirements to include a detailed 60-day notice requirement before any requirement to try a biosimilar or interchangeable biological product, as specified, as well as a notice by January 15, 2027, of possible pharmacy substitutions based on current formularies.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to regulate health plans under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 (Knox-Keene Act) and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to regulate health insurance. [Health & Safety Code (HSC) §1340, et seq. and Insurance Code (INS) §106, et seq.]

2) Prohibits a health plan contract from limiting or excluding coverage for a drug for an enrollee if the drug previously had been approved for coverage by the plan for a medical condition of the enrollee and the plan's prescribing provider continues to prescribe the drug for the medical condition, provided that the drug is appropriately prescribed and is considered safe and effective for treating the enrollee's condition. This does not preclude the prescriber from prescribing another covered drug that is medically appropriate or a generic substitution. This does not apply to off-label use of drugs. This does not prohibit a health plan from charging a subscriber or enrollee a copayment or a deductible for prescription drug benefits or from setting forth, by contract, limitations on maximum coverage of prescription drug benefits. [HSC §1367.22]

3) Establishes the Pharmacy Law which provides for the licensure and regulation of pharmacies, pharmacists, and dangerous drug or device wholesalers, and

establishes the Board of Pharmacy (the Board) to enforce the Pharmacy Law. [Business & Professions Code (BPC) §4000, et seq.]

4) Authorizes a pharmacist filling a prescription for a drug product to select a different form of medication with the same active ingredients of equivalent strength and duration of therapy as the prescribed drug when the change will improve the ability of the patient to comply with the prescribed drug therapy unless the prescriber indicates "Do not substitute." Specifies that the pharmacist assumes the same responsibility for selecting the dispensed drug product as would be incurred in filling a prescription for a drug product using the prescribed form of medication and specifies that there is no liability on the prescriber pursuant to this authority. Requires the patient to be informed that a different form of medication was used and requires the prescription label to include the name of the dispensed drug product. Prohibits substitution between long-acting and short-acting forms of a medication with the same chemical ingredients or between one drug product and two or more drug products with the same chemical ingredients. [BPC §4052.5]

5) Authorizes a pharmacist, when filling a prescription for a drug product prescribed by its trade or brand name, to select another drug product with the same active chemical ingredients of the same strength, quantity, and dosage form, and of the same generic drug name. Outlines the same "Do not substitute" specifications, pharmacist discretion specifications, prescriber liability specifications, patient communication specifications, and prescription label specifications in 4) above. Prohibits a pharmacist from substituting if the drug selected substitution costs the patient the same or more than the prescribed drug, including any professional fee charged by the pharmacist. [BPC §4073]

6) Authorizes a pharmacist filling a prescription for a prescribed biological product to select an alternative biological product if the alternative biological product is interchangeable and if the prescriber does not indicate "Do not substitute" or words of similar meaning. Requires a dispensing pharmacist or their designee to make an entry of the specific biological product provided to the patient within five days of dispensing it, including the name of the biological product and the manufacturer. [BPC §4073.5]

This bill:

1) Requires health care service plan contracts and health insurance plans that provide prescription drug benefits and maintain one or more drug formularies

that include a reference product to include at least one biosimilar or interchangeable biological product licensed for the same reference product on the formulary if the biosimilar has a lower net cost to the plan than the reference product.

2) Authorizes health plans and insurers to require enrollees who are currently on a prescribed name brand drug or reference biological product to try a therapeutically equivalent generic, biosimilar, or interchangeable biological product to the reference product unless the prescriber has not indicated "Do not substitute."

3) Restricts the authority to require patients try an alternative product to those biological products that have a lower net cost to the plan or insurer and have the same or lower cost-sharing for the enrollee/insured, which must be based on the net cost of the drug or biological product, as defined by CDI and DMHC. Prohibits a plan or insurer from requiring the patient to try a biological product in which the pharmacy benefit manager, health care service plan, insurer, or affiliated entity has a direct or indirect financial interest, if biosimilars not affiliated with these entities are also available.

4) Requires plans or insurers to provide at least 60 days' advance notice to the enrollee/insured and prescribing provider of a requirement to try an alternative product. Clarifies that enrollees/insureds may request exceptions via existing step therapy exceptions or nonformulary drug requests, that the prescription may be reissued by the prescribing provider with "do not substitute" to maintain current coverage without additional authorization, and that health plans or insurers are not issuing or altering prescriptions. Requires the notice to a prescribing provider to indicate the prescribers affected plan enrollees. Clarifies that a plan or insurer may fulfill this requirement through a formulary change notice.

5) Requires plans and insurers, by January 15 2027, to notify the plan's or insurer's prescribing providers of any reference biological product and any biosimilar or interchangeable biological product for that reference product that is already included on the plan formulary and notification that a pharmacist may substitute a biosimilar or interchangeable biological product for the prescribed reference product unless the prescriber indicates "Do not substitute." The notification shall identify any of the provider's enrollees or insureds whose prescribed reference biological product may be subject to that substitution.

6) Requires health plans and insurers, on or before October 1, 2027, as part of the data included in annual prescription drug price reporting, to provide DMHC or CDI with the proportion of prescription substitutions resulting from this bill that result in reduced cost-sharing, information about the factors affecting when an enrollee's or insured's cost-sharing is not reduced, the impact of these substitutions on premiums, and any other related information requested by the regulating department.

7) Amends Pharmacy Law to authorize a pharmacist to select an alternative biological product if the alternative product is biosimilar to or interchangeable with a prescribed reference product.

8) Requires the Board of Pharmacy to maintain a link to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s Database of Licensed Biological Products (the "Purple Book") on its website.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> A majority of Californians report health care costs rising faster than their income, causing many to delay or avoid care. One driver of rising health insurance premiums is prescription drug spending. Biologics are particularly expensive: though only 5% of prescriptions, they account for about half of all drug spending. Expanding the use of lower-cost alternatives, like biosimilars, could help reduce pharmaceutical spending and lower insurance premiums. This bill promotes biosimilar adoption by requiring health plans and insurers to include at least one lower-cost biosimilar on the formulary if they cover a reference product, allowing pharmacists to substitute a biologic with a biosimilar unless otherwise indicated, and allowing health plans to require enrollees to try a generic or biosimilar when available at the same or lower cost unless otherwise indicated. It also requires insurers to report the proportion of substitutions that reduce cost-sharing and the impact on premium growth.

California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) analysis. Coverage impacts and enrollees covered. *Medical effectiveness.* There is very strong evidence of no differences in safety or efficacy between biosimilars and their reference biologic, based on FDA regulatory standards. There is also very strong evidence that there is no difference in safety or side effects when switching between reference biologics

and their biosimilar based on 31 randomized control trials and over 15 years of extensive pharmacovigilance data, derived from continuous monitoring of biosimilars after being made available to the public.

a) *Utilization*. CHBRP estimates that 24,700 Californians would be switched from a brand name reference product to a lower-cost biosimilar, and that the impact of small molecule drug switches would be negligible due to high rates of switching already.
b) *Medi-Cal.* Although Medi-Cal pharmacy benefits are carved out through Medi-CalRx, this bill still impacts nearly 9 million Medi-Cal enrollees through DMHC-regulated Medi-Cal managed care medical benefits. Medi-Cal premiums are expected to decrease by $1.5 million in a 50% market shift scenario ($0.01 per member per month).
c) *Impact on expenditures*. CHBRP performed a sensitivity analysis of three different utilization scenarios: a 10%, 50%, or 90% switch from reference products to biosimilars or interchangeable biological products. All scenarios resulted in premium savings, ranging between $17.5 million (0.01%) for a 10% market shift scenario and $175 million (0.09%) for a 90% market shift scenario. In a 50% market shift scenario, premiums are expected to decrease by $87.7 million, with a $55.5 million reduction in employer or union premiums, a $14.6 million reduction in premiums for enrollees in group insurance, and a $16 million reduction in premiums for enrollees in the individual market. For those whose prescriptions are switched to a biosimilar by a pharmacist or who are required to try a biosimilar by their health plan, average savings are much greater, saving the enrollee between $92 and $310 annually in total cost-sharing, depending on their insurance market.

Biological products and biosimilars. Biological products, like monoclonal antibodies, insulin, vaccines, and allergenic products, are large, complex molecules made from living sources. Biological products are approved by the FDA under a standalone Biologics License Application (BLA) that contains all data necessary to demonstrate the product's safety and effectiveness, including both preclinical studies and clinical trials in humans. The BLA must be approved by the FDA before the product can be legally marketed in the U.S.

The Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA) of 2009 defined a biosimilar as a biological product with active components that are highly similar to a reference product that demonstrates no clinically meaningful differences in terms of safety, purity, or potency. Like generic drugs, biosimilars are approved through an abbreviated pathway that relies on the FDA's prior approval of a reference biologic. To gain approval as a biosimilar, manufacturers must perform rigorous

comparative analysis of the physicochemical and biological functional characteristics of a biosimilar to the reference product and an assessment of immunogenicity. The proposed biosimilar product must be shown to have the same mechanism of action as the reference product, the same route of administration, dosage form, and strength as the reference product, and may be licensed only for conditions that have been previously licensed for the reference product. The FDA maintains an online database of all reference products and approved biosimilars, called the Purple Book.

Biosimilar cost savings. According to a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) fact sheet, biologics are a significant driver of prescription drug costs in the U.S., accounting for over half of total U.S. drug spending in 2024 despite comprising just 5% of prescriptions. According to a KFF report, retail prescription drug prices are the fastest growing cost in national healthcare expenditures. DMHC reports that prescription drug costs paid by California health plans have increased by 72%, or $6.2 billion, since 2017. When drug prices increase, these costs get passed on to employers and health plan enrollees via increased premiums. The 2025 California Health Benefits Survey reports that 36% of large California companies (over 200 employees) report that prescription drug prices contributed "a great deal" to higher premiums, including 63% of companies with 5,000 or more workers.

Because biosimilars are approved through an abbreviated pathway that avoids the need for as many costly and lengthy clinical trials as the reference product, biosimilars offer considerable cost savings. Since their introduction to the market, biosimilars have generated savings totaling $56.2 billion for both patients and the healthcare system, according to the Association of Accessible Medicines (AAM). Recognizing the potential for cost savings for payors, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' May 2024 Final Rule for Medicare Part D plans authorized Part D sponsors to substitute, upon 30 days' notice, a biosimilar biological product for its reference product on their formularies.

Interchangeability. Under the BPCIA, an interchangeable biosimilar may be substituted for its reference product without intervention from the prescribing health care provider. Manufacturers must apply for this designation, which historically required costly switching studies. In 2024, the FDA rescinded that requirement after a decade of evidence found no meaningful differences in safety or immunogenicity between patients who switched to biosimilars and those who did not. The FDA now states that biosimilars and interchangeable biosimilars meet the same high standards for biosimilarity, and that the comparative analytical data

supporting biosimilarity can also support interchangeability. The FDA has proposed eliminating the statutory distinction by deeming all approved biosimilars interchangeable, aligning the U.S. more closely with the E.U. The bipartisan Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act, which would do the same, has unanimously advanced through policy committees in both chambers of Congress.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- The California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) estimates savings of $1.5 million to the Medi-Cal program (General Fund, federal funds).
- CHBRP estimates costs savings of $4.1 million in reduced premiums for DMHC-regulated health plans offered through the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). About one-half of CalPERS members are associated with state employment, and a portion of premiums are paid by members, so the state's share of the savings would be around $1.7 million (General Fund). In addition, there would be smaller cost reductions in CDI-regulated insurance policies offered through CalPERS.
- Minor and absorbable costs to the Board of Pharmacy, CDI, and DMHC.
- CHBRP estimates $87.7 million (0.05%) in reduced premiums paid by all payors, including employers, enrollees, and government.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

America's Health Insurance Plans
America's Physician Groups
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, California
Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
Blue Shield of California
California Academy of Family Physicians
California African American Chamber of Commerce
California Association of Health Plans
California Association of Physician Groups
California Chamber of Commerce
California Pharmacists' Association
California Primary Care Association Advocates
California Senior Alliance
California State Council of Service Employees International Union
Coalition of Los Angeles Probation Unions
CVS Health

Hardesty, LLC.
Health Access California
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
Santa Clara County Probation Peace Officer's Union
Sharp Healthcare
Several individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

Alliance for Patient Access
Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines
Amgen
Axis Advocates
Biocom California
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Health Collaborative
California Rheumatology Alliance
California Society of Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery
Carrie's Touch
Infusion Access Foundation
International Cancer Advocacy Network
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis
Looms for Lupus
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Los Angeles
Neuropathy Action Foundation
U.S. Pain Foundation

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The sponsor of the bill, the California Association of Health Plans (CAHP), states that this bill is a step towards addressing prescription drug prices, the fastest-growing driver of health plan premiums in California. CAHP writes that this bill modernizes outdated pharmacy substitution laws and permits health plans to make formulary changes that align with those already occurring in Medicare Part D plans, which can substitute coverage of a brand-name biologic with a biosimilar. Blue Shield of California and America's Physician Groups point out that the Office of Health Care Affordability places all health care industry players on a budget except pharmaceutical manufacturers, and this bill is a small but important step towards making the pharmaceutical industry part of the solution, injecting competition into drug pricing that will bring down costs to the system. CVS Health reports that they've transferred 93% of the

patients they serve to Hyrimoz, a Humira biosimilar, which has saved their members in California $33.2 million and has reduced total gross cost per prescription by almost $6,700 since 2023. CVS plans to continue transitioning patients to osteoporosis biosimilars that offer a 50% cost savings over brand-name alternatives. Sharp HealthCare saved more than $6.4 million last year through biosimilar conversions, which helped reduce overall healthcare costs and allowed Sharp to reinvest in expanded access to services, patient care programs, and critical clinical resources. California Primary Care Association (CPCA) Advocates emphasizes that the bill increases access to lower-cost biologic medication, which is critically important to the communities served by CPCA Advocates' member community health centers and clinics, who often serve as the only source of care for lower-to-middle-class families in many rural communities. Health Access California states that six in ten Californians are skipping or delaying health care due to costs, and one-third of Americans are cutting back on daily spending, even skipping meals, due to health care costs. Ensuring Californians have access to safe alternatives like biosimilars is an important method of reducing consumer costs without risks to quality of care.

Support if amended. The California Society of Health-System Pharmacists also supports the bill if amended to state that the law can't be construed to require a medical provider or pharmacy to stock, procure, dispense, or administer drugs from manufacturers or distributors that are not currently part of the pharmacy's existing contractual agreements.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Rheumatology Alliance, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, and Lupus and Allied Diseases Association argue that biosimilars may have subtle differences in efficacy that may lead to unintended consequences for patients and insist that patients should not be switched to a different biological product without advance consultation with the prescribing physician unless the product has been deemed interchangeable by the FDA. They further argue that patients on biologics are living with complex medical conditions and have often tried multiple biologics before finding an effective therapy and oppose the ability of health plans to force a patient to try a biosimilar if they are stable on their existing therapy. The Lupus and Allied Diseases Association state that lupus is an unpredictable, individualized, heterogeneous, multi-system disease that requires access to the full array of treatments. Any disruption in continuity of care as a result of payer utilization management policies, formulary or dosage changes, or other cost containment measures has detrimental consequences on patients, possibly exacerbating the disease and augmenting costs. The Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California emphasize that no other state allows substitution of biosimilars not

deemed interchangeable, claiming that this process is working for Californians and that it is not in the best interests of patients to allow a pharmacist to substitute a biosimilar.

Oppose unless amended. Amgen and Biocom oppose the bill unless amended to maintain the current pharmacy substitution law, which allows substitution only with interchangeable biosimilars. Biocom also proposes that the health and safety code changes be amended to preserve California's longstanding continuity-of-care protections by preventing mid-year, non-medical switching of patients who are stable on a prescribed therapy.

Prepared by: Natalie Gehred / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/26/26 15:05:22

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1105
Author: Pérez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/7/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 21-13, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Choi, Grove, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Archuleta, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Stern, Weber Pierson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Law enforcement

SOURCE: ACLU California Action

DIGEST: This bill removes certain arrest authority and peace officer status for federal law enforcement officers operating in California and prohibits a California law enforcement agency (LEA) from entering into an interagency agreement with a federal law enforcement agency unless the agreement expressly prohibits the California agency from engaging in specified prohibited conduct.

Assembly Amendments create carveouts to the arrest authority limitations for deputized tribal law enforcement officers of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and authorized federal employees of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management; strike references to the National Security Presidential Memorandum No. 7; remove the prohibition against the use of departmental resources or personnel by an LEA to assist in an operation executed by a federal or out of state agency that involves proscribed activities, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that any person who meets all standards imposed by California law on a peace officer is a peace officer and provides that sworn members of several specified law enforcement agencies and agency types are peace officers whose authority extends to any place in this state. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §§ 830, 830.2.)

2) Grants peace officers the authority to arrest a person in obedience to a judicial warrant, or pursuant to their peace officer authority, without a warrant when any of several specified circumstances occur. (Pen. Code, § 836, subd. (a).)

3) Provides that federal criminal investigators and law enforcement officers are not California peace officers, but may exercise the powers of arrest of a peace officer in any of the following circumstances:

    a) Any circumstances in which a California peace officer may arrest without a warrant and in specified circumstances related to involuntary psychiatric holds that involve violations of state or local laws.

    b) When these investigators and law enforcement officers are engaged in the enforcement of federal criminal laws and exercise the arrest powers only incidental to the performance of these duties.

    c) When requested by an LEA to be involved in a joint task force or criminal investigation.

    d) When probable cause exists to believe that a public offense that involves immediate danger to persons or property has just occurred or is being committed. (Pen. Code, § 830.8, subd. (a).)

4) Requires that federal investigators and law enforcement officers, prior to the exercise of these arrest powers, to have been certified by their agency heads as having satisfied specified training requirements. (Ibid.)

5) Provides that duly authorized federal employees who comply with specified training requirements are peace officers when they are engaged in enforcing applicable state or local laws on property owned or possessed by the United States government, or on any street, sidewalk, or property adjacent thereto, and with the written consent of the sheriff or the chief of police, respectively, in whose jurisdiction the property is situated. (Pen. Code, § 830.8, subd. (b).)

6) Specifies that during a state of war emergency or a state of emergency, as defined, federal criminal investigators and law enforcement officers who are assisting California law enforcement officers in carrying out emergency operations are not deemed California peace officers, but may exercise the powers of arrest of a peace officer, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 830.8, subd. (d).)

7) Creates, via the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act, a civil cause of action against anyone, including police, who interferes with constitutional rights by threat, intimidation or coercion. (Civil (Civ.) Code, § 52.1.)

8) Prohibits a peace officer from engaging in racial or identity profiling, as defined, and requires that the course of basic training for peace officers include adequate instruction on racial, identity, and cultural diversity, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 13519.4.)

9) Generally prohibits law enforcement agencies from using kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents, as defined, for the purposes of crowd control. (Pen. Code, § 13652.)

10) Generally requires law enforcement agencies to obtain the approval of their governing body, as specified, prior to acquiring any military equipment, as defined. (Government (Gov.) Code, §§ 7070 et. seq.)

11) The California Values Act, generally prohibits California law enforcement agencies from using agency moneys or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes, as specified, from placing officers under the supervision of federal agencies for the purpose of immigration enforcement, and from cooperating in other specified ways with federal immigration authorities. (Gov. Code, § 7284.6, subd. (a).)

12) Provides that notwithstanding the above limitations, and in accordance with local laws and agency policies, California law enforcement agencies are not

prohibited from conducting enforcement or investigative duties associated with a joint law enforcement task force, including the sharing of confidential information with other law enforcement agencies for purposes of task force investigations, so long as the following conditions are met:

a) The primary purpose of the joint law enforcement task force is not immigration enforcement, as defined.

b) The enforcement or investigative duties are primarily related to a violation of state or federal law unrelated to immigration enforcement.

c) Participation in the task force by an LEA does not violate any local law or policy to which it is otherwise subject. (Gov. Code, § 7284.6, subd. (b).)

13) Requires California law enforcement agencies participating in a task force, for which the agency has agreed to dedicate personnel or resources on an ongoing basis, to submit a report annually to the Department of Justice, as specified. (Gov. Code, § 7284.6, subd. (c).)

This bill:

1) Limits the authority of federal law enforcement officers and criminal investigators (federal officers) to exercise the arrest authority of a California peace officer, as follows:

a) Removes the authority of federal officers to exercise the powers of arrest of a peace officer for violations of state or local laws in specified circumstances, including in obedience to a warrant, without a warrant if the officer has probable cause the person committed a public offense in the officer′s presence, a person has committed a felony or the officer has probable cause to believe they have committed a felony, or to take into custody a person with a specified mental health disorder.

b) Removes the authority of federal officers to make arrests when they are engaged in the enforcement of federal criminal laws and exercise arrest powers only incidental to the performance of these duties.

c) Narrows the authority of federal officers to make arrests when probable cause exists to believe that a public offense that involves immediate danger to persons or property has just occurred or is being committed, by permitting such arrests only when there is probable cause that an offense involves an immediate threat of great bodily injury.

d) Clarifies that federal officers exercising arrest authority are subject to existing provisions of law requiring a private person who has made an arrest to take the person before a magistrate or deliver them to a peace officer, and prohibiting civil liability against a peace officer or federal officer acting within the scope of their duties, as specified.

e) Removes the reference to federal officers having the powers of arrest of a peace officer, and specifies that federal officer arrest authority must be consistent with provisions of law prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings and requiring law enforcement officers to visibly display identification, as specified.

f) States that specified provisions of law outlining the arrest authority of federal law enforcement officers do not affect the powers of federal officers when they are engaged in the enforcement of federal criminal laws and exercising their federal arrest powers pursuant to the performance of those duties.

g) Removes the provision of law making duly authorized federal employees peace officers when they are engaged in enforcing applicable state or local laws on property owned or possessed by the United States government, or on any street, sidewalk, or property adjacent thereto, and with the written consent of the sheriff or the chief of police, respectively, in whose jurisdiction the property is situated, and if those employees comply with specified peace officer training requirements.

h) Subjects federal officers assisting California law enforcement officers in carrying out emergency operations, who have state peace officer arrest authority, as specified, to provisions of law prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings and requiring officers to display identification.

i) States that duly authorized federal employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service except for national park rangers, or the Bureau of Land Management who comply with specified training requirements and provisions of law prohibiting officers from wearing facial coverings and requiring officers to display identification, are peace officers if they are engaged in enforcing the Fish and Game Code on property owned or possessed by the U.S. government, or on any street, sidewalk, or property adjacent thereto, and with the written consent of the sheriff or the chief of police, as applicable, in whose jurisdiction the property is situated.

j) States that deputized tribal law enforcement officers of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs are not California peace officers, but may exercise the powers of arrest of a peace officer, subject to provisions of law prohibiting law enforcement officers from wearing facial coverings and requiring officers to display identification, in any of the following circumstances:

   i. In obedience to a warrant, or without a warrant if the officer has probable cause the person committed a public offense in the officer′s presence, the person arrested has committed a felony, or the officer has probable cause to believe they have committed a felony, for violations of state or local law, and to take into custody a person with a mental health disorder based on probable cause, as specified.

   ii. When engaged in the enforcement of federal criminal law and exercising arrest powers only incidental to the performance of those federal duties.

   iii. When providing or attempting to provide law enforcement services in response to a request initiated by peace officers to assist in preserving the peace and protecting Indian reservations or rancherias, and other tribal lands held in trust by the federal government for which peace officers are responsible, pursuant to specified federal law.

k) Requires a deputized tribal law enforcement officer of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, prior to the exercise of these arrest powers, to have been certified by their agency head as having satisfactorily completed a specified Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) course of training, or the equivalent thereof.

2) Prohibits, except as required by federal or state law, a California LEA from entering into an interagency agreement unless the agreement is in writing and expressly provides that any California LEA party to the agreement shall not engage in the following conduct:

   a) Racial or identity profiling, as defined and prohibited.

   b) Investigation, arrest, use of force, or imposition of civil or criminal liability or other penalties upon a person or entity based solely on constitutionally protected expressive conduct.

   c) Deployment of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents against an assembly, protest, or demonstration that does not meet the requirements of existing restrictions on the use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents, including that such projectiles only be deployed by a peace officer

who has completed certain training and that de-escalation techniques or other alternatives were attempted and failed.

d) Use, deployment, or acquisition of military equipment that has not been authorized by a military equipment use policy, as specified (hereafter, prohibited interagency conduct).

3) Prohibits an interagency agreement from exceeding four years in duration and permits the agreement to be renewed upon the creation of a new written instrument.

4) States that an interagency agreement in existence on January 1, 2027, is presumptively valid and may remain in effect until July 1, 2027, and on or before July 1, 2027, the interagency agreement shall be amended to include the restrictions on prohibited interagency conduct.

5) States that an agreement that does not expressly include the limitations on prohibited interagency conduct is contrary to law and public policy, and is void and unenforceable.

6) States that this bill′s restrictions on interagency agreements shall not be construed to render an interagency agreement void and unenforceable based solely on a federal law enforcement officer or out-of-state law enforcement officer engaging in prohibited interagency conduct.

7) Makes any of the following a violation of this bill:

a) The California LEA has engaged in prohibited interagency conduct under the auspices of an interagency agreement.

b) The California LEA did not otherwise comply with the requirements of this bill.

8) Defines the following terms:

a) ″California law enforcement agency″ means a police department, including the police department of a transit agency, school district, or specified higher education institutions, a sheriff′s department, a district attorney′s office, a county probation department, and any other LEA, department, or other entity of the state or any political subdivision thereof that employs any peace officer.

b) ″Interagency agreement″ means an agreement or memorandum of understanding between a California LEA and a federal LEA or other out-of-state LEA for criminal law enforcement, including, but not limited to, a mutual aid agreement. This does not include individual or informal communications or consultations between a California LEA and a federal or out-of-state agency.

c) ″Constitutionally protected expressive conduct″ means activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States (U.S.) Constitution or provisions of the California Constitution establishing rights to life and liberty, acquiring property, pursuing safety, happiness and privacy, rights related to reproductive freedom, speech, press, assembly, and religion, including, but not limited to:1) assembly; 2) petitioning; 3) speech; 4) expression of political and religious opinions; 4) recording government officials engaged in their duties in public places; and 4) publication of opinions or recordings.

9) States that the provisions of this bill restricting federal and state LEA agreements do not prohibit or restrict any governmental entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, federal immigration authorities, information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual, or from requesting from federal immigration authorities, immigration status information, lawful or unlawful, of an individual, or maintaining or exchanging that information with any other federal, state, or local governmental entity, as specified.

10) Includes a severability clause, makes specified findings and declarations, and makes technical clarifying changes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

> Reimbursable state-mandated costs (General Fund) to local law enforcement agencies of an unknown amount, likely minor per agency but potentially significant in the aggregate. This bill requires local LEAs to amend existing interagency agreements by July 1, 2027, and to conform new agreements to the bill′s requirements. There are 455 police departments and 58 county sheriffs′ departments in the state. These costs are likely reimbursable from the General Fund, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates, to the extent a local agency files a reimbursement claim.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

ACLU California Action (source)
Alianza Coachella Valley
All of US or None (HQ)
Alliance for a Better Community
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action
Alliance San Diego
American Friends Service Committee
Anti Police-terror Project
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Civic Empowerment
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California
Berkeley Friends Meeting
CAIR California
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Black Power Network
California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight
California Community Foundation
California Faculty Association
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Public Defenders Association
Californians for Safety and Justice
Cancel the Contract
Center for Policing Equity
Central American Resource Center of California
Check the Sheriff
Chispa
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
County of Orange, Second District Office of Supervisor Sarmiento
Courage California
Debt Free Justice California
Decrimsexworkca
Democrats of Rossmoor
Drug Policy Alliance
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Environmental Health Coaltion

Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom
Initiate Justice
Justice2jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Latino Community Foundation
League of Women Voters of California
Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union
Loyola Law School Anti-racism Center
Multi-faith Action Coalition
National Police Accountability Project
Oakland Privacy
Oakland; City of
Orange County Rapid Response Network
Peace and Justice Law Center
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California
Privacy Defense Alliance
Prosecutors Alliance Action
Public Counsel
Restoring Hope California
Rubicon Programs
Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Smart Justice California
Solano County Democratic Central Committee
South Asian Network
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
The Gathering for Justice
The San Diego Lgbt Community Center
The W. Haywood Burns Institute
Transitions Clinic Network
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Women's March Action

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs

Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Indian Legal Services
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Peace Officers' Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
California Statewide Law Enforcement Association
California Tribal Police Chiefs Association
Chief Probation Officers' of California
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fraternal Order of Police
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
LA Habra: City of
Long Beach Police Officers Association
Los Angeles Police Protective League
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside County Sheriff's Office
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs Association
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association
Santa Ana Police Officers Association
SCI California Coalition

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/25/26 13:27:16

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1107
Author: Stern (D)
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/8/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 4/23/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Reyes, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: School facilities: shade structures

SOURCE: Los Angeles Unified School District

DIGEST: This bill authorizes school districts to bundle multiple comparable shade structure projects at different sites into a single design-build solicitation, subject to specified requirements, and expands an existing exemption from accessible path-of-travel requirements under the California Building Standards Code for certain freestanding shade structures to also apply to shade structures that are integrated into playground equipment.

Assembly Amendments authorize school districts, until January 1, 2032, to bundle multiple comparable shade structure projects at different sites into a single design-build solicitation when the combined value of the projects exceeds $1 million, even

if individual projects are below the $1 million threshold for use of design-build, and make related chaptering amendments.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "construction or alteration" for purposes of school facilities projects to include any construction, reconstruction, or alteration of, or addition to, any school building.

2) Requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to pass upon and approve or reject all plans for the construction or, if the estimated cost exceeds $100,000, the alteration of any school building.

3) Generally requires the governing board of each school and community college district, before adopting construction or alteration plans, to submit the plans to DGS for approval and pay all associated fees.

4) Requires construction projects over $209,208 (cost threshold) to provide "an accessible path of travel" from the building entrance to the project location.

5) Specifies that an area that has been altered without providing an accessible path of travel to that area, and subsequent alterations of that area or a different area on the same path of travel are undertaken within three years of the original alteration, the total cost of alterations for the preceding three-year period shall be considered in determining whether the cost threshold has been met.

6) Limits the cost of complying with the requirement to provide an accessible path of travel to a free-standing, open-sided shade structure project to 20% of the adjusted construction cost, as defined, of the shade structure project.

7) Authorizes a school district, with the approval of its governing board, to use the design-build procurement process for public works projects in excess of $1 million and to award a design-build contract to either the low bid or the best value, as specified.

This bill:

1) Authorizes a school district, until January 1, 2032, with the approval of its governing board, to bundle multiple comparable shade structure projects at different sites through a single design-build solicitation if the combined value of

the projects exceeds $1 million, even if an individual project is valued at less than $1 million, provided that no individual project exceeds $10 million.

2) Requires each project awarded through a bundled solicitation to be a separate contract with an individual contract value, scope of work, location, schedule, design, and construction, and authorizes a contract entered into by December 31, 2031, to be completed after that date.

3) Expands an existing exemption from accessible path-of-travel requirements under the Building Code for certain freestanding shade structures to also apply to integrated shade structures attached to playground equipment that are included on DSA's approved pre-check design list.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "Spending time outside plays a vital role in supporting children's overall health and academic achievement. Regular access to outdoor environments can reduce stress and inattentiveness while strengthening cognitive growth and emotional well-being. However, students in urban areas face greater exposure to extreme temperatures, which can undermine the benefits of outdoor play by increasing their vulnerability to heat-related illnesses and diminishing their ability to focus and learn. Proper shading structures are essential to lower surrounding temperatures and protect children from dangerous heat.

   "We are proud to continue the important work SB 515 had started by expanding its provisions to include overheard playground structure shading, further empowering our schools to quickly and cost-effectively provide schoolyard shading that keeps our children cool while they play."

2) *Plan review for construction projects.* The DSA reviews plans for public school construction and certain other state-funded building projects to ensure that plans, specifications, and construction comply with California's building codes (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations). The majority of DSA's plan review and construction oversight focuses on new construction and alteration projects for California school and community college districts. DSA's plan review ensures the project's compliance with code requirements related to:

   a) Structural safety, ensuring that facilities meet the high standards set in the Field Act to withstand an earthquake.

b) Fire and life safety, addressing the safety of occupants in buildings, as related to fire resistive building materials, fire alarms, fire suppression equipment, safe occupant egress, and firefighting equipment access.

c) Access compliance, ensuring that public schools and state-funded construction projects meet accessibility requirements for people with disabilities.

d) Energy efficiency, including compliance with applicable California Green Building Standards Code requirements for sustainability.

3) *The Field Act.* All school facilities must be built in compliance with specified earthquake safety standards, commonly known as the "Field Act." The Field Act was enacted following a severe earthquake in Long Beach in 1933. The Field Act requires a comprehensive design specification and construction inspection process for K-12 public school educational facilities. Community college facilities may be constructed in accordance with either the Field Act or the Building Code.

   The Field Act requires the DSA (within DGS) to review the construction plans for school buildings and requires school districts to hire onsite construction inspectors to ensure compliance with the structural safety standards. School and community college construction contracts may only be awarded after DSA approval of the plans and specifications on which the contracts are based.

4) *State Architect's pre-check approval process.* The DSA maintains a pre-check design list that includes over 25 "off the shelf" shade structures that schools and community colleges can install according to an expedited review and approval process. The pre-check approval process is intended to streamline DSA plan review by providing a procedure for approving the design of commonly used structures prior to the submittal of plans to DSA for construction projects. The pre-check approval process allows designers to incorporate designs for structures that have already been "pre-checked" by DSA into their plans for actual site-specific construction projects.

5) *Bundling shade structure projects for design-build procurement.* Existing law generally authorizes a school district to use design-build procurement for public works projects exceeding $1 million. The Assembly amendments authorize a school district undertaking multiple comparable shade structure projects at different sites to bundle those projects through a single design-build solicitation if their combined value exceeds $1 million, even if individual projects are valued at less than $1 million. Each project must remain a separate contract

with its own contract value, scope of work, location, schedule, design, and construction.

This approach may be particularly useful for districts seeking to install similar shade structures across multiple campuses. Bundling comparable projects could allow districts to reduce administrative costs, achieve economies of scale, and make design-build available for shade projects that would otherwise fall below the statutory threshold. The authority sunsets at the end of 2031, providing an opportunity to assess whether this approach reduces the cost or time associated with installing shade structures before considering whether it should be continued or applied more broadly.

6) *Expanding SB 515's exemption for shade structures.* SB 515 (Stern, Chapter 489, Statutes of 2023) created a narrow exception to accessible path-of-travel requirements under the Building Code for freestanding, open-sided shade structures included DSA's pre-check design list. That measure was intended to reduce project costs and facilitate the installation of shade structures on school campuses in response to increasing concerns about extreme heat exposure for students during outdoor activity.

   Under the Building Code, alterations to existing school facilities that exceed a specified valuation threshold (currently $209,208) must also include the provision of an accessible path of travel to the area being altered. Smaller projects that fall below the valuation threshold are generally exempt from these requirements. However, if additional projects or repairs at the same campus within a three-year period cause the cumulative cost of alterations to exceed the threshold, the path-of-travel improvements may be required retroactively for the earlier project. According to the author, this framework may result in relatively small projects, such as playground shade structures, triggering broader accessibility upgrades if other campus work has occurred during the prior three years.

   This bill proposes to extend the exemption created by SB 515 to integrated shade structures attached to playground equipment, allowing these projects to remain subject to the 20% path-of-travel cap regardless of whether the valuation threshold would otherwise be exceeded.

7) *Balancing climate adaptation with accessibility improvements.* School districts and advocates increasingly view playground shade structures as an important strategy for protecting students from extreme heat during outdoor activity. For example, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) reports that approximately 380 schools lack shade over play structures. With a $40 million

budget dedicated to shade shelters, LAUSD estimates it can install structures at approximately 49 schools, prioritizing campuses using its Student Equity Need Index to target investments toward communities most vulnerable to extreme heat. According to LAUSD, reducing project costs associated with accessibility triggers allows available funding to reach a greater number of campuses.

At the same time, accessible path-of-travel requirements serve an important policy purpose: ensuring that accessibility improvements are incorporated into existing school facilities over time as campuses undergo alterations. For students, staff, and visitors who use wheelchairs or have other mobility challenges, these incremental upgrades can determine whether new or improved spaces on campus are reachable. Expanding exemptions from these requirements may allow new amenities to be installed without triggering broader accessibility improvements that might otherwise occur during facility upgrades. As the Committee considers expanding the exemption created by SB 515, it may wish to weigh the benefits of facilitating additional shade installations against the potential for fewer accessibility improvements to be made on aging school campuses.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Ongoing General Fund costs of $1.1 million for the Labor Commissioner's Office (under the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)) to accommodate the additional number of projects subject to enforcement of skilled and trained workforce requirements by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. According to DIR, under existing law, school districts are required to use a skilled and trained workforce to perform all work for design-build projects or contracts that fall within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades.

2) Minor and absorbable costs to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) within the Department of General Services (DGS).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

Los Angeles Unified School District (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 16:22:12

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1124
Author: Archuleta (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares, Grove

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/22/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 29-4, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Grove, Niello, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Dahle, Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Public health

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to develop signage for lung cancer screening and requires licensed tobacco retailers to display the signage or be subject to a civil penalty.

Assembly Amendments (1) Allow CDPH to make signage available to raise lung cancer awareness, instead of developing the signage; (2) Permit CDPH to develop signage using existing materials, or partner with an existing program; (3) Allow CDPH to satisfy the bill's requirement by including a Quick Response code on the signage that links to information required by the bill; (4) Provide a maximum size for signage; (3) Require the signage to be available free of cost to retailers from website; (4) Direct retailers to post the signage conspicuously; (5) Provide that provisions in current law directing CDTFA to suspend or revoke a tobacco retail license do not apply to violations of the bill's provisions; (6) Direct proceeds from civil penalties imposed under the bill to the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund; and (6) Consolidate the measure's changes into one code section in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Enacts the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act, which required the Board of Equalization (BOE) to license manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, importers, and retailers of cigarette or tobacco products who are engaged in business in California.

2) Transfers duties, powers, and responsibilities related to the administration of taxes and fees from BOE to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA).

3) Directs CDTFA to administer the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Law.

4) Requires retailers, distributors, manufacturers, wholesalers, and importers to have and maintain a license, and conspicuously display the license at each retail location in a manner visible to the public or be subject to a $500 civil penalty.

5) Creates two kinds of licenses for retailers: one for those who sell tobacco products subject to the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax, and one for those whose products are not subject to that tax, such as retailers of electronic delivery devices not containing or sold with nicotine and certain accessories, such as zero-nicotine vaporized liquids.

6) Provides that licenses are valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

7) Sets license fees on both sets of tobacco retailers at $450, for new or renewed licenses applied for on or after July 1, 2026, while permitting CDTFA to further increase the license fee by regulation to an amount necessary to maintain the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund at a level that is no more than necessary to cover its reasonable costs, not to exceed $600 (AB 573, Rogers, Chapter 269, Statutes of 2025).

8) Creates the California Tobacco Control Program (CTCP) within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to reduce tobacco use and prevent tobacco-related diseases, and conduct health education interventions and behavior change programs at the state level, in the community, and other non-school settings, including cessation programs. Requires CDPH to conduct statewide surveillance of tobacco-related behaviors, knowledge, and attitudes, and evaluate its local and state tobacco control programs.

9) Requires retailers of tobacco products, as part of the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act, to post conspicuously a notice stating that selling tobacco products to anyone under 21 years of age is illegal and subject to penalties, that the law requires those selling tobacco products check the identification of a purchaser, and includes a toll-free telephone number to report unlawful sales of tobacco products to any person under 21 years of age.

This bill:

1) Amends the Licensing Act to require CDPH to make available signage to raise lung cancer screening awareness, which must include, on or before July 1, 2027:

   a) Eligibility criteria for lung cancer screening.
   b) Information on the effectiveness of lung cancer screening.
   c) The toll-free telephone number of the Kick It California tobacco cessation program.
   d) A quick response code that links to the Kick It California page on the department's internet website.

2) Permits CDPH to develop the signage, use existing materials, or partner with an existing lung cancer screening public awareness or education campaign, and to satisfy the bill's requirement by including a Quick Response code on the signage that links to information required above.

3) Bars signage from exceeding 8.5 inches by 4 inches in size.

4) Requires signage to be available to order at no cost from CDPH's internet website.

5) Amends the Licensing Act to require a retailer engaged in the retail sale of cigarettes or tobacco products to conspicuously display the signage at each retail location of the retailer beginning January 1, 2028.

6) Imposes a penalty of $500 for failing to display the signage, in addition to any other applicable penalty.

7) Directs CDTFA to impose the penalty in accordance with the procedures for the civil penalty in existing law for failing to display its license, upon its discovery that a retailer failed to display the signage at a retail location.

8) Provides that provisions in current law directing CDTFA to suspend or revoke a tobacco retail license do not apply to violations of the bill's provisions.

9) Deposits proceeds from penalties imposed under the bill into the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund.

Background

Approximately 29,000 cigarette and tobacco product retail locations are licensed to sell cigarettes and tobacco products in California. CDTFA's compliance efforts include regular inspections of businesses selling cigarettes and tobacco products, including retailers, wholesalers, and distributors, to ensure compliance with cigarette and tobacco product tax and licensing laws. CDTFA annually conducts about 3,318 inspections of licensed cigarette and tobacco product retailers to ensure compliance with the Licensing Act and applicable tax laws. Among other requirements, CDTFA enforces the current requirement under the Licensing Act that a retailer conspicuously display the license at each retail location, as well as signage requirements under the STAKE Act.

Kick It California. The Kick It California program seeks to help Californians quit cigarettes, vaping products, smokeless tobacco, and cannabis. Funded by the First 5 Commission and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and operated by the University of California, San Diego, Kick It seeks to help those who consume these products by connecting them with skilled "quit coaches." Dating its commencement to 1992, Kick It states that it enrolled almost 30,000 people last year, of whom 15,824 received coaching.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- CDPH states it anticipates costs of approximately $426,000 for fiscal years (FY) 2027-28 and 2028-29, and $275,642 ongoing beginning in FY 2029-30 for one full-time staff to develop the lung cancer screening signage, manage a graphic design contract, support regulatory development, and provide relevant content information such as lung cancer eligibility criteria (General Fund). If CDPH uses existing materials or works with an existing lung cancer screening awareness campaign, costs could be significantly lower.

- Possible additional costs of an unknown amount to the University of California (UC), which administers Kick It California, to integrate new call prompts and referral pathways into existing workflows for the program's cessation activities (California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 Fund and Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund).

- California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) estimates costs of $100,000 in 2026-27, $266,000 in 2027-28, $242,000 in 2028-29, $170,000 in 2029-30, and $141,000 in 2030-31 and ongoing for providing notifications to retail licensees, answering taxpayer inquiries, and performing related administrative functions, such as issuing and processing civil penalties and handling appeals (Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund). CDTFA also anticipates potential revenues of an unknown amount from civil penalties.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council
American College of Surgeons, Southern California Chapter
American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative
Association of Northern California Oncologists
Breathe Southern California
California Academy of Family Physicians
California-Hawai'i State Conference of the NAACP
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
California Lung Cancer Coalition
California OneCare Education Fund
City of Alameda
CleanEarth4Kids.org

County of Fresno
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California
San Luis Obispo County Tobacco Control Coalition
Southern California Public Health Association
UC Student Association
UCLA Undergraduate Student Association Council
One Individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in California and nationally, yet California has the lowest lung cancer screening rate in the country (<1%). The primary barrier is awareness given that 62% of Americans don't even know lung cancer screening exists. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends yearly lung cancer screening (LCS) for people who have a 20 pack-year (a packyear refers to smoking an average of 1 pack of cigarettes per day for 1 year) or more smoking history, smoke now, or have quit within the past 15 years, and are between the ages of 50 and 80. Although LCS are generally covered by insurance for individuals who meet these high-risk criteria, in California, only 16.8% of this population receive LCS. SB 1124 would raise awareness around eligibility for lung cancer screenings and encourage tobacco users to access health care services already available to them. To address California's particularly low screening rates and the disparities in access across communities, SB 1124 will require signage, created by the California Department of Health, for lung cancer screening eligibility criteria at the point-of sale for tobacco products."

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8/25/26 15:48:18

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1164
Author: Cervantes (D)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 4/21/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 29-9, 5/20/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Becker, Grove

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Elections

SOURCE: California Democracy Partnership

DIGEST: This bill revises and expands the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) with a state voting rights act that seeks to protect voters from voter suppression and vote dilution.

Assembly Amendments added coauthors, added specificity for CVRA challenges and remedies, and included legislative findings and declarations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits, pursuant to Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. This includes any voting standard, practice, or procedure that results in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

2) Prohibits, pursuant to the CVRA, a political subdivision from imposing or applying an at-large method of election for members of the political subdivision's governing body in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as specified. For violations of the CVRA, courts provide appropriate remedies, including the imposition of district-based elections.

This bill:

1) Defines "protected class" means any group of eligible voters who are members of any race, color, or language-minority group, including two or more such groups, as specified.

2) Prohibits a political subdivision or state agency from implementing, imposing, or enforcing any election policy or practice that results, or is likely to result, in voter suppression. A violation is established when an election policy or practice disproportionately makes it harder for protected classes to vote or participate politically, unless the government can show the policy is necessary and that a less discriminatory alternative is not reasonably available.

3) Prohibits a political subdivision from employing a method of election that has the effect, or will likely have the effect, of diluting the vote of members of a protected class of voters. A violation is established when elections in the political subdivision exhibit racially polarized voting resulting in an impairment of the equal opportunity or ability of protected class members to nominate or

elect candidates of their choice. A violation could also exist if, based on the totality of circumstances, the equal opportunity or ability of protected class members to nominate or elect candidates of their choice is impaired.

4) Establishes guidelines and rules for evaluating voter suppression and vote dilution claims. Relevant factors in evaluating a claim may include any history of discrimination against members of, and historical disparities in political and voting participation and electoral success by, members of the protected class. Ongoing civil litigation filed before this bill becomes effective is governed by the legal standards in the existing CVRA for the purpose of establishing liability.

5) Permits an action to cure a violation related to voting to be brought by an affected voter in the jurisdiction or by the Attorney General (AG). A party, other than the AG, before bringing an action against a political subdivision, must send a notice to the political subdivision explaining how the policy or procedure, or method of election, may violate this bill and propose a remedy that would address the violation, unless certain conditions are met. The political subdivision has an opportunity to address the violation in response to such a letter before an action may be filed, unless certain conditions are met.

6) Provides that actions brought under this bill to proceed expeditiously. A court may order appropriate relief tailored to remedy a violation, including remedies not otherwise allowed under existing state law.

7) Requires any political subdivision to obtain preapproval from the AG before changing its method of election, annexing or de-annexing territory affecting the jurisdiction's population, or reducing language assistance, if the subdivision was found liable in the previous 10 years for violating this bill or a law or constitutional provision related to the right to vote for members of a protected class. The AG may grant approval for a covered change only if it will not diminish the ability of protected class members to participate in the political process or elect candidates of its choice. The AG must also create a process and a timeline for political subdivisions subject to preapproval for covered practices.

8) Prohibits a political subdivision that changes its method of election under this bill or the existing CVRA from reverting to the method of election it previously used without first obtaining a court order.

9) Requires a governing body engaged in local redistricting to comply with the requirements of this bill when adopting new district boundaries. A governing

body cannot adopt district boundaries for nonpartisan offices using party affiliation data when redistricting or from relying on partisan advantage or political ideology to defend district boundaries in a legal challenge.

10) Contains legislative findings and declarations.

Background

California Voting Rights Act of 2001. SB 976 (Polanco, Chapter 129, Statutes of 2002) enacted the CVRA to address racial block voting in at-large elections for local office in California. In areas where racial block voting occurs, an at-large method of election can dilute the voting rights of minority communities if the majority typically votes to support candidates that differ from the candidates who are preferred by minority communities.

In such situations, dividing a jurisdiction up into districts can result in districts in which a minority community can elect the candidate of its choice or otherwise have the ability to influence the outcome of an election. Accordingly, the CVRA prohibits an at-large method of election from being imposed or applied in a political subdivision in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class of voters to elect the candidate of its choice or to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgement of the rights of voters who are members of the protected class.

Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides, in part, that "[t]he right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude." Additionally, the 15th Amendment authorizes Congress to enact legislation to enforce its provisions. The 15th Amendment was ratified in February 1870.

In 1965, Congress determined that state officials were failing to comply with the provisions of the 15th Amendment. As a result, Congress passed and President Johnson signed the VRA. The VRA, among other provisions, prohibits any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure" from being imposed by any "[s]tate or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color."

Section 2 of the VRA is a nationwide prohibition against voting practices and procedures, including redistricting plans and at-large election systems, poll worker hiring, and voting registration procedures, that discriminate on the basis of race,

color, or membership in a language minority group. In *Louisiana v. Callais*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in April 2026 that Louisiana's congressional map was unconstitutional because race was used too prominently in its design. The Court held that complying with Section 2 of the VRA did not justify race-based redistricting unless it met strict constitutional limits. The ramifications of this decision are not fully known, but other states are evaluating how this decision affects a jurisdiction's current boundaries.

Section 2 also allowed the U.S. Attorney General or affected private citizens to bring lawsuits in federal court to challenge practices that may violate the VRA. In 2021, in *Brnovich v. DNC*, the U.S. Supreme Court made it more difficult to bring voter suppression claims through the judicial process.

Section 4 of the VRA set the criteria for determining whether a jurisdiction is covered under certain provisions of the VRA, including the requirement for review of changes affecting voting under Section 5.

Section 5 of the VRA requires certain states and covered jurisdictions to receive approval for any changes to law and practices affecting voting from the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia to ensure that the changes do not have the purpose or effect of "denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color." This is also known as a "preclearance" requirement.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013, held that a coverage formula in Section 4 of the VRA is unconstitutional and can no longer be used as a basis for subjecting jurisdictions to preclearance under Section 5 of the VRA. The Court did not directly strike down Section 5, which contains the preclearance requirements, but without Section 4, no jurisdiction will be subject to Section 5 preclearance unless Congress enacts a new coverage formula.

Comments

1) *Author's Statement.* Under the stewardship of Chief Justice John Roberts, the Supreme Court of the United States has gradually chipped away at the federal VRA, culminating with its recent horrific decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*. Because the CVRA only prohibits discriminatory at-large election systems, California law is now inadequate to provide voting rights safeguards that have protected Californian voters for generations. This bill will enshrine many of the provisions prohibiting vote dilution, voter suppression, and other forms of voter discrimination that once existed in the federal VRA into state law. This bill will also ensure that California continues to lead on voting rights by providing the

AG and individual California voters with improved means to enforce state elections laws.

2) *Remedies and the Courts.* Under the existing CVRA, a political subdivision is prohibited from imposing or applying an *at-large method* of election for members of the political subdivision's governing body in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election. The adoption of district elections has been viewed as a typical response to CVRA violation. This bill allows challenges to *district-based methods* of election that impair a protected class' ability to elect candidates of choice or influence election outcomes.

   This bill also creates a cause of action allowing affected voters to challenge any election policies or practices that result in voter suppression, including practices unrelated to district boundaries, such as the placement of voting locations, the timing of elections, or the method of electing people to office. This provides the courts with a considerable amount of discretion in selecting a remedy should it be needed. This could include structural electoral changes, such as mandating a governing body to switch to district elections or expanding the size of the governing body. It could also include modifications to the mechanics of an election, such as changing the current election method to a "shared-based" election method (such as proportional representation) or ranked-choice voting.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 976 (Polanco, Chapter 129, Statutes of 2002) enacted the CVRA to address racial block voting in at-large elections for local office in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

1) Costs of approximately $1.3 million in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27, $2.3 million in FY 2027-28, and $2.2 million annually thereafter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for increased workload to develop and defend regulations, provide and defend pre-approval to certain political subdivisions, and conduct related engagement, reviews, investigations, and enforcement (General Fund (GF)). DOJ anticipates needing at least nine new positions and an external consultant for specialized workload on issues pertinent to voting rights, elections, district maps, and demographics.

2) Costs of approximately $859,000 in the first year and $574,000 annually thereafter to the SOS to promulgate regulations and examine, test, certify, or

conditionally approve voting systems, software, procedures, and voting technologies adopted to remedy a CVRA 2026 violation (GF). The SOS anticipates needing three additional positions for the increased workload while maintaining separation of duties between certification and monitoring functions and operational continuity during peak election periods.

3) By requiring a political subdivision to follow CVRA 2026 procedures and modifying the duties of local elections officials, this bill likely creates a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates determines the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service for which the state must reimburse local costs, a local agency could claim reimbursement from the state (GF). The magnitude of these costs is unknown, but definitely significant.

   Additionally, a local agency may incur non-reimbursable costs to the extent the agency is subject to an action brought by the AG or an aggrieved individual or entity.

4) Ongoing cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, to the courts in additional workload by allowing the AG or an aggrieved individual or entity to bring an action to enforce voting rights on an expedited timeline, allowing an aggrieved individual or entity to bring an action to challenge a preapproval determination granted by the AG, and requiring a court to certify certain election methods would not violate CVRA 2026 (GF or Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF)). It is unclear how many actions may occur statewide and how much court time may be needed to resolve each case, but it generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on staff and the TCTF may create a demand for increased court funding from the GF. The state budget provides annual GF backfills to the TCTF to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in fiscal year 2025-26.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Democracy Partnership (source)
AAPIs for Civic Empowerment
ACLU California Action
Asian Law Caucus
California Black Power Network
California Common Cause
California Environmental Voters
California Native Voter Project

Catalyst California
CHIRLA
Inland Empire United
League of Women Voters of California
Legal Defense Fund
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
SEIU California
UCLA Voting Rights Project
Luis A. Alejo, Monterey County Supervisor, District 1
AFSCME
American Association of University of Women of California
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific Environmental Network Action
Black Leadership Council
California Domestic Workers Coalition
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California School Employees Association, AFL-CIO
Campaign Legal Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Courage California
Dēmos
Dolores Huerta Foundation
FairVote Action
Hmong Innovating Politics
NextGen California
Starting Over Inc.
Starting Over Strong
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
VietRISE
Western Center on Law and Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

City of Buena Park
City of Concord

City of Folsom
City of Glendora

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/26/26 19:19:32

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1167
Author: Blakespear (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Cortese, Grove, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Vehicles: electric bicycles

SOURCE: California Bicycle Coalition
People for Bikes
Streets are for Everyone
Streets for All

DIGEST: This bill revises the definitions of electric bicycles (e-bikes), motor-driven cycles, and mopeds, updates the labeling and disclosure requirements for manufacturers and sellers of these devices, and prohibits noncompliant vehicles from being advertised as e-bikes. This bill additionally establishes new operational and safety requirements and imposes additional reporting requirements on law enforcement, among other things.

Assembly Amendments delete certain provisions related to unfair competition and false advertising laws, clarify moped and off-highway electric motorcycle battery compliance standards, modify e-bike labeling requirements, and address chaptering out conflicts with AB 2027 and AB 1913.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines an e-bike as a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor that does not exceed 750 watts of power. (Vehicles Code (VEH) §312.5)

2) Defines a class 1 e-bike as a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, that is not capable of exclusively propelling the bicycle, that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour (mph), and is not capable of providing assistance to reach speeds greater than 20 mph. (VEH §312.5)

3) Defines a class 2 e-bike as a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 mph. (VEH §312.5)

4) Defines a class 3 electric bicycle as a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, that is not capable of exclusively propelling the bicycle, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 mph, and equipped with a speedometer. (VEH §312.5)

5) Prohibits the following vehicles from being sold as an electric bicycle: vehicles with two or three wheels powered by an electric motor that is intended by the manufacturer to be modifiable to attain a speed greater than 20 mph on motor power alone or to attain more than 750 watts of power, a vehicle that is modified to attain a speed greater than 20 mph on motor power alone or to have

motor power of more than 750 watts, and a vehicle that is modified to have its operable pedals removed. (VEH §312.5)

6) Requires manufactures and distributors of electric bicycles to apply a label that is permanently affixed, in a prominent location, to each electric bicycle. The label shall contain the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electric bicycle, and shall be printed in Arial font in at least 9-point type. (VEH §312.5)

7) Defines a "motorcycle" as a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. (VEH §400)

8) Defines a "motor-driven cycle" as any motorcycle with a motor that displaces less than 150 cubic centimeters. A motor-driven cycle does not include a motorized bicycle, as defined in Section 406. (VEH §405)

9) Defines a "motorized bicycle" or "moped" as a two-wheeled or three-wheeled device having fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, or having no pedals if powered solely by electrical energy, and an automatic transmission and a motor that produces less than 4 gross brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than 30 mph on level ground. (VEH §406)

10) Requires manufacturers of motorized bicycles or mopeds to provide a disclosure to buyers that meets the following specifications:

    a) The disclosure shall be printed in not less than 14-point boldface type on a single sheet of paper that contains no information other than the disclosure.

    b) The disclosure shall include the following language in capital letters: "YOUR INSURANCE POLICIES MAY NOT PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OF THIS BICYCLE. TO DETERMINE IF COVERAGE IS PROVIDED YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY OR AGENT."

11) Defines a "motorized scooter" as any two-wheeled device that has handlebars, has either a floorboard that is designed to be stood upon when riding or a seat and footrests in place of the floorboard, and is powered by an electric motor.

This device may also be designed to be powered by human propulsion. (VEH §407.5)

12) Requires motorized bicycles or mopeds to display a special license plate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and specifies the process to apply for and receive the license plate. (VEH §5030)

13) Requires DMV to maintain a record system that provides for identification of stolen motorized bicycles or mopeds. (VEH §5038)

14) Establishes classes of vehicle driver's licenses, including Class M1 which authorizes an applicant to drive a two-wheel motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle; and a Class M2 which allows an applicant to drive a motorized bicycle or moped, or a bicycle with an attached motor. Specifies that persons holding a class M1 license or endorsement may operate vehicles included in class M2 without further examination. (VEH §12804.9)

15) Prohibits motorized bicycles from being operated on a bicycle path or trail, bikeway, bicycle lane, as specified, equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail, unless it is within or adjacent to a roadway or unless the local authority or the governing body of a public agency having jurisdiction over the path or trail permits, by ordinance, that operation. (VEH §21207.5)

16) Exempts motor-driven cycles whose speed attainable in one mile is 30 mph or less from the requirement that vehicles and motorcycles be equipped with a lamp-type turn signal system. (VEH §24951)

17) Requires every motorcycle during darkness to be equipped with at least one and not more than two lighted headlamps. (VEH §25650)

18) Provides that it is unlawful for any person or business to advertise or promote goods or services using statements that are untrue or misleading. This applies to all forms of communication, including newspapers, online content, and other advertising methods, and covers claims that the advertiser knows—or should reasonably know—are false. Violations are misdemeanors punishable by up to six months in county jail, a fine of up to $2,500, or both. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §17500)

19) Defines unfair competition to mean any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising. (BPC §17200)

20) Prohibits a person from distributing, selling, leasing, or offering for sale or lease a powered mobility device unless the battery for the powered mobility device has been tested by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with ANSI/CAN/UL 2272. (Health and Safety Code §26302)

This bill:

1) Makes findings and declarations related to e-bikes and other electric devices and vehicles.

2) Clarifies the list of devices and vehicles that are not e-bikes and may not be advertised, sold, offered for sale, or labeled as e-bikes.

3) Adds to the definition of a "motor-driven cycle" vehicles that are propelled by an electric motor of less than 3,750 watts that produces five brake horsepower or less, are designed for highway use, and comply with all applicable federal motor safety standards and requires motor-driven cycles and mopeds to have a 17-digit vehicle identification number and a specified safety certification.

4) Deletes the term "motorized bicycle" from the Vehicle Code and replaces it with "moped" and makes numerous technical changes to the definition of a moped, including:

    a) Specifies that a moped must have an electric motor of less than 3,000 watts or an internal combustion engine that produces less than 4 gross brake horsepower;

    b) Clarifies that a moped must be designed for highway use and comply with all applicable federal motor safety standards;

    c) Specifies that an e-bike, motor-driven cycle, motorized scooter, pocket bike, or off-highway electric motorcycle is not a moped, and may not be advertised, sold, offered for sale, or labeled as a moped;

    d) Authorizes a moped to be equipped with operable pedals for propulsion by human power; and,

e) Clarifies that only mopeds powered by a liquid fuel must be equipped with an adequate muffler.

5) Requires motor-driven cycles and mopeds propelled by an electric motor and manufactured after January 1, 2027, to be equipped with a lamp-type turn signal system and requires every motor-driven cycle and moped operating during darkness to be equipped with at least one and not more than two lighted headlamps.

6) Prohibits the operation of a two-wheeled or three-wheeled device powered by an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device at a speed greater than 20 mph on level ground on a highway or public right-of-way when powered solely by the motor unless the device meets a definition of a class of motor vehicle device that is explicitly defined in the Vehicle Code, complies with all applicable requirements for that motor vehicle, and is explicitly authorized for use on a highway or public right-of-way. This bill also extends this prohibition to any device that has multiple speed modes or settings, even if one or more of the settings limit the maximum speed of the device to 20 mph, and devices that are designed or designated by the manufacturer for off-road use or for use on private land.

7) Authorizes a peace officer to remove a prohibited device described above if a person is operating the unauthorized device on a highway or public-right-of-way.

8) Requires manufacturers and distributors of electric bicycles, mopeds, and motor-driven cycles to securely affix an informational label to the frame or fork that is readily visible without inverting the electric bicycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle, and that cannot be removed without the marking or labeling being defaced or destroyed. The information shall be printed in Arial font in at least 9 point type.

9) Prohibits the sale or installation of an electric bicycle classification label unless the classification label is sold and installed in a physical retailer or bicycle repair shop.

10) Requires a retailer and bicycle repair shop of electric bicycles to verify that the classification label matches the legal electric bicycle class before installing the classification label on an electric bicycle.

11) Requires any incident report filed by a peace officer for an injury or crash involving an electric bicycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle to include all of the information provided on the device's label, including brand name, manufacturer, top speed, top wattage, and classification. If the electric bicycle, moped, or motor-driven cycle does not have the marking or label, the incident report must indicate that a marking or label was not available.

12) Requires every manufacturer, importer, or seller of a motor-driven cycle, a moped, or an off-highway electric motorcycle that is powered by an electric motor to provide a disclosure to all potential buyers in any advertising (including any online advertising) that advises buyers that the vehicle is a motor vehicle subject to registration, their existing insurance policies may not provide coverage for the vehicle, and that they should contact their insurance company or insurance agent to determine if coverage is provided.

13) Extends the definition of "off-highway motor vehicle subject to identification" to include mopeds and off-highway electric motorcycles.

14) Prohibits a person from renting or offering for rental a moped or off-highway electric motorcycle or a corresponding charging system unless the battery and charging system complies with applicable requirements within SAE J2929 or another applicable SAE, ISO, UNECE, or IEC safety standard.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "[t]he three class system for e-bikes can be confusing for consumers, media, healthcare providers, and law enforcement. Unscrupulous businesses have taken advantage of this confusion by selling powerful motor vehicles as 'e-bikes.' SB 1167 will improve community safety by better regulating motor vehicles that look like e-bikes so purchasers are aware of the safety risks, manufactures are held responsible for misleading advertisements, and law enforcement can collect better data."

What's an e-bike? Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, typically look similar to regular bicycles but include an electric motor and battery. In California, e-bikes must be equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor that does not exceed 750 watts of power. The fastest e-bikes are Class 3, with a maximum pedal-assisted speed of 28 mph. Class 2 e-bikes offer throttle assistance and can travel up to 20 mph. A device that is capable of going faster than 20 mph using a throttle alone, or

faster than 28 mph with pedal assist, is not an e-bike under California law. The primary purpose of SB 1167 is to eradicate over-powered devices that fall outside the technical definition of e-bikes but are misrepresented as e-bikes.

Current e-bike false advertising laws. Current law technically protects consumers from false advertising pertaining to misclassified or out-of-class e-bikes. Specifically, it is illegal to advertise or sell any of the following vehicles as e-bikes:

a) A vehicle with two or three wheels powered by an electric motor that is intended by the manufacturer to be modifiable to attain a speed greater than 20 mph on motor power alone or to attain more than 750 watts of power;

b) A vehicle that is modified to attain a speed greater than 20 mph on motor power alone or to have motor power of more than 750 watts; or,

c) A vehicle that is modified to have its operable pedals removed.

This statute is intended to keep illegal, overpowered devices off the street and out of the market. However, many online retailers flagrantly violate this law and advertise throttle-powered devices with maximum speeds over 20 mph as e-bikes.

Benefits of e-bikes. Shifting trips from personal vehicles to active transportation is a key strategy for achieving the state's environmental goals. E-bikes are an increasingly popular tool to reduce car travel, particularly given that more than half of all trips in the United States are under three miles. Evidence also shows that e-bikes are used by a diverse range of individuals, including children, older adults, and people with disabilities who may be unable to drive or use a conventional bicycle. In addition to expanding mobility, e-bikes present an opportunity to address persistent transportation challenges, including vehicle traffic injuries and fatalities, transportation-related emissions, and roadway congestion.

Growing concerns with e-bikes and other devices. Californians have seen a surge of news coverage in recent years about the dangers of e-bikes. Additionally, many places where conventional bicycles were common have experienced a proliferation of e-bikes, such as schools, coastal communities, and bike trails. The rapid growth in the visibility of faster devices has resulted in a swift backlash against e-bikes across the country, including calls for increased restrictions and, in some cases, bans. However, many of the reported incidents may not have involved a legal e-bike.

E-bike safety study finds illegal, over-powered devices are a key problem. The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) at San Jose State University released a report commissioned by the California Legislature titled: *Exploring Electric Bicycle Safety Performance Data and Policy Options for California*. The report found, "many devices marketed in California as electric bicycles have much higher motor power and/or faster motor-assisted speed than the law allows. While nobody knows how many of these illegal electric bicycles are on the road, the percentage might be quite high. Counts of electric two-wheelers parked at a dozen northern California middle and high schools found that almost 90% may not meet the standards for legal electric bicycles. Some of these devices have as much as eight times more power than legal limits." The study went on to find that many consumers unknowingly purchase illegal devices, believing them to be legal e-bikes. Misleading advertisements often list devices capable of going over 30 mph as e-bikes and displays photos or videos of these devices on public roads.

SB 1167 seeks to prevent the sale of illegal devices. Among other things, SB 1167 clarifies that any device that does not meet the legal definition of a device or vehicle in the Vehicle Code is neither an e-bike, nor is it legal to operate on public roads. It also clarifies the list of devices and vehicles that are not e-bikes and may not be advertised, sold, offered for sale, or labeled as e-bikes. This bill explicitly creates a violation for riding a two-wheeled or three-wheeled device powered by an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device at a speed greater than 20 mph unless the device meets the definitions of a class of motor vehicle explicitly defined in the Vehicle Code and complies with all applicable requirements for that motor vehicle. Under this bill, a peace officer would be able to remove (tow and impound) a prohibited device if a person is operating it on a highway or public-right-of-way.

Classifying mopeds, etc. Among numerous other technical changes to the Vehicle Code, this bill deletes the term "motorized bicycle" in the Vehicle Code and replaces it with "moped." The goal of this change is to reduce confusion between "motorized bicycles" and e-bikes. This change may create an administrative burden for DMV, but does not create a policy change as the two terms are synonymous. Mopeds legally may not achieve speeds over 30 mph on level ground and require at minimum an M2 license, or any other driver's license, to operate. Mopeds must be registered and display a license plate.

Disclosures and labels. This bill expands the current labeling requirements for manufacturers and distributors of e-bikes, mopeds, and motor-driven cycles. Specifically, this bill requires these vehicles to have informational labels that are

securely affixed to the frame or fork of the e-bike, moped, or motor-driven cycle. The label must be readily visible without inverting the device and cannot be removed without the marking or labeling being defaced or destroyed. Currently, e-bikes must have a prominent, permanently affixed label. The label must contain the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the e-bike, and must also be printed in Arial font in at least 9-point type. Under this bill, the label would also need to include the name of the brand and the manufacturer, importer, or distributor of the e-bike, in addition to the existing information required. This bill requires a retailer or bicycle repair shop to verify that the classification label matches the e-bike class, before installing the label.

This bill also specifies that manufacturers and distributors of mopeds and motor-driven cycles affix labels compliant with federal regulations, mandating, among other things, the name of the manufacturer, month and year of manufacture, gross vehicle weight rating, vehicle identification number, and the classification of the vehicle.

This bill additionally imposes disclosure requirements on manufacturers, importers, and sellers of motor-driven cycles, mopeds, or off-highway electric motorcycles. The disclosure would need to advise buyers that the vehicle is a motor vehicle subject to registration and applicable motor vehicle laws.

Law enforcement reporting. This bill requires law enforcement to include in any incident report for an injury or crash involving an e-bike, moped, or motor-driven cycle all the information on the device or vehicle's label. If the e-bike, moped, or motor-driven cycle does not have a label, the incident report must indicate that a marking or label was not available.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown, but potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional filings resulting from violations of the requirements and prohibitions in this bill. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state

budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in 2025-26.

- DMV anticipates minor costs associated with forms and publication updates, including revisions to the Motorcycle Handbook.

- The California Highway Patrol (CHP) anticipates minor, absorbable costs for policy and training updates and to collect additional crash data.

- Costs to local law enforcement to collect additional crash data. The committee does not know the magnitude of these local costs but notes CHP expects such costs to be minor and absorbable, as described above. Nonetheless, these local costs may be significant in the aggregate, statewide. The state would need to reimburse these local costs, likely from the General Fund, if locals file a claim with the Commission on State Mandates and the commission determines the costs to be a reimbursable state mandate.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Bicycle Coalition (co-source)
People for Bikes (co-source)
Streets are for Everyone (co-source)
Streets for All (co-source)
50 Sacramento
AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah
AARP
Abate of California - Motorcyclists Rights & Safety Organization
Active San Gabriel Valley
Alameda County Transportation Commission
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Association of California Cities - Orange County
Auto Club of Southern California
Bicycling Monterey
Bike Culver City
Bike East Bay
Bike LA
Bike Temecula Valley
Brea; City of
Calbike
California Association of Bicycling Organizations
California Association of Recreation & Park Districts
California District Attorneys Association

California Emergency Nurses Association
California Medical Association
California Mountain Biking Coalition
California Orthopedic Association
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
Chico Velo Bicycle Advocates
Circulate San Diego
City and County of San Francisco
City of Calabasas
City of Carlsbad
City of Coronado
City of Del Mar
City of Lakewood CA
City of Los Alamitos
City of Norwalk
City of Rancho Cucamonga
City of San Juan Capistrano
City of San Luis Obispo
City of San Mateo
City of Vista
City/county Association of Governments of San Mateo County
Claremont Streets for People
County of Marin
Cupertino; City of
Day One
East Bay for Everyone
East Bay Regional Park District
Ecology Action
Festival Trail
Fremont, City of
Goleta; City of
Irvine; City of
LA Critical Mass
Lafayette; City of
League of California Cities
Livable Communities Initiative
Marin County Bicycle Coalition
Marin County Board of Supervisors
Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Move LA
Move San Mateo
Move Santa Barbara County
Napa County Bicycle Coalition (napa Bike)
Neutron Holdings, INC. Dba Lime
Norwalk; City of
Oceanside Unified School District
Oceanside; City of
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Orange County Transportation Authority
Orange; County of
People for Bikes
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Riverside County District Attorney
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Sacramento County Young Democrats
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
San Diego County Sheriff's Office
San Dieguito Union High School District
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
Sandiego350
Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance
Santa Monica Spoke
Scripps Health
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Slow Down Sacramento
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
South Pas Active Streets
Street Racing Kills
Sunnyvale Safe Streets
Town of Truckee
Transbay Coalition
Transform
Walk Bike Berkeley
Walk Bike Cupertino
West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received.

Prepared by: Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/25/26 18:18:58

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1169
Author: Grayson (D)
Amended: 8/12/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 4/30/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Caballero, Valladares, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 8/17/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Subdivision Map Act: tentative maps: expiration dates

SOURCE: Bay Area Council

DIGEST: This bill extends the life of tentative maps under the Subdivision Map Act.

Assembly Amendments shorten the extension provided by the bill to three years instead of four and restore the ability to use phased maps to extend a tentative map's life.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows, under the California Constitution, cities and counties to "make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws."

2) Requires every county and city to adopt a general plan that sets out planned uses for all of the area covered by the plan. A general plan must include specified mandatory "elements," including a housing element that establishes the locations and densities of housing, among other requirements.

3) Requires cities' and counties' major land use decisions—including zoning ordinances and other aspects of development permitting—must be consistent with their general plans.

4) Governs, pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act, how local officials regulate the division of real property into smaller parcels for sale, lease, or financing.

5) Authorizes local governments to impose a wide variety of conditions on subdivision maps.

6) Provides that a tentative map expires 24 months after its approval, but if a subdivider expends $236,790 on public improvements, then filing of a final map extends the validity of the map by 48 months.

7) Allows additional extensions for a tentative map of up to a total life of 16 years, absent extensions granted in other laws.

This bill:

1) Extends the initial life of a map to four years, instead of two.

2) Allows local ordinances to extend subdivision maps by three years, instead of two.

3) States that the extensions apply to an approved or conditionally approved tentative map that is not expired as of December 31, 2026.

4) Makes technical and conforming changes.

Background

Validity of tentative maps. The initial life of a tentative map is two years. At the option of the city or county, a map's initial life can be extended to four years. However, tentative maps can be valid for up to 16 years absent special extensions granted by the Legislature, through a combination of extensions that a local

government must grant and voluntary extensions. Specifically, if the subdivider spends substantial funds and files phased final maps, the remaining tentative map is automatically extended by four years or more, up to a maximum of ten years. A local government can further extend this 10 years by another six years, at its discretion. These deadlines don't apply during development moratoria (up to five years) or during pending litigation (up to five years).

The Legislature has periodically allowed local governments to offer, or explicitly granted, additional extensions to unexpired maps that meet specified conditions or are located in specific areas. These measures often responded to economic conditions or natural disasters that affected the ability of subdividers to complete improvements and finalize them.

While many of these extensions are granted at the discretion of cities and counties, they may not impose new conditions other than the life of those maps at the time they extend them, except in limited cases where the Legislature has specifically authorized new conditions.

In good economic times, an experienced subdivider can comply with a tentative map's conditions in a few years. Scarce financing, complex settings, and inexperience can drag out the time between a tentative map's approval and the filing of a final map. If a tentative map expires, the subdivider must start over, complying with any new required conditions. The Bay Area Council wants to extend the life of subdivision maps.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "The Subdivision Map Act (SMA) governs how land is divided into parcels for development, sale, or financing. Under the SMA, there are three main tiers of subdivision maps: parcel maps, tentative maps, and final maps. Tentative Vesting Maps are valid for 24 months, although, certain local jurisdictions may allow these maps to be valid for longer periods of time. The mapping process under the Subdivision Map Act can further constrain the state's already limited housing supply. Tentative vesting maps require discretionary approvals, that have additional requirements, leading to longer timelines and increasing costs. These longer timelines may also require projects to seek re-entitlement even if the project remains consistent with adopted plans and zoning, only further increases project costs, delays housing, and puts financing at risk. To help prevent construction delays and unlock housing faster, SB 1169 would increase the length of an entitlement under the Subdivision Map Act. By aligning tentative vesting maps with local planning cycles, SB 1169 will help

provide greater project certainty and reduce overall costs for housing development, making homeownership much more feasible for all."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- No state costs. Local costs resulting from this bill are not reimbursable by the state because local agencies have general authority to levy fees or charges to cover the administrative costs of new planning mandates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/17/26)

Bay Area Council (source)
Abundant Housing Los Angeles
California Apartment Association
California Council for Affordable Housing
California Yimby
Casita Coalition
East Bay Yimby
Grow the Richmond
Habitat for Humanity California
Housing Action Coalition
Mountain View Yimby
Napa-solano for Everyone
Northern Neighbors Sf
Peninsula for Everyone
San Francisco Yimby
San Jose Yimby
San Mateo Forward
Santa Cruz Yimby
Santa Rosa Yimby
South Bay Yimby
Spur
Ventura County Yimby
Yes! in Redwood City
Yimby Action
Yimby Los Angeles
Yimby Monterey Peninsula
Yimby Slo

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/17/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 8/17/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Bryan, Hart, Wicks

Prepared by: Anton Favorini-Csorba / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/17/26 17:11:45

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1173
Author: Caballero (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 25-10, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Jones, McNerney, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cervantes, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Jury instructions: lesser related offenses

SOURCE: California Attorneys for Criminal Justice; Californians for Safety and Justice

DIGEST: This bill restores a criminal defendant's right to a jury instruction on lesser related offenses to the offense charged, and permits a jury, or a judge if a jury trial is waived, to find the defendant guilty of the lesser offense if certain conditions are met.

Assembly Amendments require that the defendant provide notice to the prosecution of the intent to seek the above-described jury instruction, and strike a statement of legislative intent regarding a related court case.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that after closing arguments in a criminal trial, the judge may then charge the jury, and shall do so on any points of law pertinent to the issue, if requested by either party. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 1093, subd. (f).)

2) Provides that at the beginning of the trial or from time to time during the trial, and without any request from either party, the trial judge may give the jury such instructions on the law applicable to the case as the judge may deem necessary for their guidance on hearing the case. (Ibid.)

3) Provides that in any criminal case which is being tried before the court with a jury, all requests for instructions on points of law must be made to the court and all proposed instructions must be delivered to the court before commencement of argument. (Pen. Code, § 1093.5)

4) Provides that before the commencement of the argument, the court, on request of counsel, must:

   a) Decide whether to give, refuse, or modify the proposed instructions.'

   b) Decide which instructions shall be given in addition to those proposed, if any.

   c) Advise counsel of all instructions to be given. (Ibid.)

5) Provides that if, during the argument, issues are raised which have not been covered by instructions given or refused, the court may, on request of counsel, give additional instructions on the subject matter thereof. (Ibid.)

6) Provides that when it appears that the defendant has committed a public offense, or attempted to commit a public offense, and there is reasonable ground of doubt in which of two or more degrees of the crime or attempted crime he is guilty, he can be convicted of the lowest of such degrees only. (Pen. Code, § 1097.)

7) Defines a special verdict as that by which the jury finds the facts only, leaving judgment to the court, as specified. (Pen. Code § 1152.)

8) Provides that the court must give judgment upon the special verdict as follows:

a) If the plea is not guilty, and the facts prove the defendant guilty of the offense charged in the indictment or information, or of any other offense of which he could be convicted under that indictment or information, judgment must be given accordingly. But if otherwise, judgment of acquittal must be given.

b) If the plea is a former conviction or acquittal or once in jeopardy of the same offense, the court must give judgment of acquittal or conviction, as the facts prove or fail to prove the former conviction or acquittal or jeopardy. (Pen. Code, § 1155.)

9) Provides that whenever a defendant is convicted of a crime or attempt to commit a crime which is distinguished into degrees, the jury, or the court if a jury trial is waived, must find the degree of the crime or attempted crime of which he is guilty. Upon the failure of the jury or the court to so determine, the degree of the crime or attempted crime of which the defendant is guilty, shall be deemed to be of the lesser degree. (Pen. Code, § 1157.)

10) Provides that the jury, or the judge if a jury trial is waived, may find the defendant guilty of any offense, the commission of which is necessarily included in that with which he is charged, or of an attempt to commit the offense. (Pen. Code, § 1159.)

This bill:

1) Provides that a jury, or a judge if a trial is waived, upon request of a defendant, may find the defendant guilty of a lesser offense, the commission of which is closely related to the offense with which the defendant is charged, if the court determines that all of the following conditions are met:

a) The defendant relies on a theory of defense that is consistent with a conviction for the lesser offense.

b) The evidence of the lesser offense is relevant to and admitted for the purpose of establishing whether the defendant is guilty of the charged offense.

c) A basis exists, other than an unexplainable rejection of prosecution evidence, on which the jury could find the offense to be less than that charged.

2) Provides that a defendant seeking lesser related offense instruction in a jury trial shall provide notice of intent to seek this instruction to the prosecution no later

than the commencement of jury selection. If a jury is waived, notice shall be given before the presentation of evidence.

3) Specifies that the notice provisions above shall be waived only with the consent of the prosecution or upon a showing of good cause.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Court cost pressures of $540,000 to $4.86 million annually (Trial Court Trust Fund) due to increased workload and trial time at both the superior court and appellate court levels. The courts derived this range from trial data in the most recent Court Statistics Report, which reflects approximately 7,000 misdemeanor and felony trials annually, and applied an assumed 25% to 75% share of trials in which a defendant may request a lesser related offense instruction. Additional trial time reflects explaining jury instructions and allowing additional argument. It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although trial courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a need for increased General Fund support. The 2025-26 budget includes $117.3 million General Fund to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund.

- Minor and absorbable workload to the Judicial Council to adopt or modify jury instructions and develop supplemental hearing materials for judicial officers and court staff.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (co-source)
Californians for Safety and Justice (co-source)
ACLU California Action
California Public Defenders Association
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Courage California
Drug Policy Alliance
Drug Policy Alliance 1
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Justice2jobs Coalition
LA Defensa

Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union
San Francisco Public Defender
San Quentin Skunkworks
Silicon Valley De-bug
Smart Justice California
The W. Haywood Burns Institute

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

California District Attorneys Association
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
San Diego County District Attorney's Office

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 16:00:17

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1190
Author: Grove (R), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Becker, Niello, Laird, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Child welfare: transport escort services

SOURCE: 11:11 Media Impact

DIGEST: This bill 1) revises California's regulation of transport escort services, and 2) establishes conditions of operation and prohibits specified restraint practices and nighttime pickups.

Assembly Amendments: revise and recast the provisions of the bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the "California Community Care Facilities Act" (CCFA) and requires CDSS to administer and license community care facilities providing nonmedical services, including adult residential facilities and short term residential therapeutic programs (STRTPs), among others. (Health and Safety Code Section [HSC] 1500 et seq.)

2) Provides that it is the policy of the state to facilitate the proper placement of every child in residential care facilities where the placement is in the best interests of the child. A county may require placement or licensing agencies, or both placement and licensing agencies, to actively seek out-of-home care facilities capable of meeting the varied needs of the child. Provides that in placing children in out-of-home care, particular attention should be given to the individual child's needs, the ability of the facility to meet those needs, the needs of other children in the facility, the licensing requirements of the facility as determined by the licensing agency, and the impact of the placement on the family reunification plan. (HSC 1501.1(a))

3) Defines "behavioral restraint" to mean a "mechanical restraint" or "physical restraint" used as an intervention when a person presents an immediate danger to self or to others. It does not include restraints used for medical purposes. (HSC 11801.1(a))

4) Defines "mechanical restraint" as the use of a mechanical device, material, or equipment attached or adjacent to the person's body that he or she cannot easily remove and that restricts the freedom of movement of all or part of a person's body or restricts normal access to the person's body, and that is used as a behavioral restraint. (HSC 11801.1(d))

5) Defines "physical restraint" as the use of a manual hold to restrict freedom of movement of all or part of a person's body, or to restrict normal access to the person's body, and that is used as a behavioral restraint. "Physical restraint" is staff-to-person physical contact in which the person unwillingly participates. "Physical restraint" does not include briefly holding a person without undue force in order to calm or comfort, or physical contact intended to gently assist a person in performing tasks or to guide or assist a person from one area to another. (HSC 11801.11(d))

6) Requires the development of technical assistance and training programs for specified health facilities to reduce or eliminate the use of seclusion and behavioral restraints in those facilities that utilize them. (HSC 1180.3)

7) Provides that the Secretary of California Health and Human Services (Secretary) or their designee shall take steps to establish a system of mandatory, consistent, timely, and publicly accessible data collection regarding the use of seclusion and behavioral restraints in all specified facilities that utilize seclusion and behavioral restraints. The Secretary shall develop a mechanism for making this information, as it becomes available, publicly available on the internet. For data currently being collected, implementation shall be done as soon as it reasonably can be achieved within existing resources. As new reporting requirements are developed and result in additional data becoming available, this additional data shall be included in the data publicly available on the internet. (HSC 1180.3)

This bill:

1) Expands the legislative intent to protect the well-being of California children by regulating private individuals and companies that transport or accompany minors, to apply to all minors regardless of where they are being transported.

2) Revises the definition of a "transport escort service" to apply to the transportation of minors to a residential facility, institution, or "youth residential program" located in this state, instead of applying to the transport of minors who are residents of California to any residential facility or institution located out of the state.

3) Includes a "youth residential program" in the requirement for every transport escort service that accompanies or transports a minor who is a resident of California to a residential facility, or institution located outside the state to first provide the minor's parents, custodial parent, or legal guardian (parent) with specified information. Requires the transport escort service to verify in writing that the minor's parent has received this information.

4) Strikes the requirement for an explanation of the minor's right to make a complaint to a child protective agency concerning abusive treatment by the transport escort service to be provided to the minor's parent.

5) Prohibits a transport escort service from accompanying or transporting a minor unless every person employed or contracted by the transport escort service to accompany or transport the minor is a TrustLine-registered childcare provider.

6) Specifies that violations of these provisions may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less $500 or more than $5,000 as to each person with respect to whom a violation occurs, or imprisonment in a county jail for not more than six months do not apply to the following:

   a) Transportation network companies;

   b) The transport of minors in their care by a community care facility, as defined; or,

   c) The transport of minors by an individual providing private childcare, casual babysitting, or domestic nanny services, if specified criteria are satisfied:

7) Requires a transport escort service to do all of the following:

   a) Possess authorization to operate as a charter-party carrier of passengers, as defined.

   b) Ensure that all individuals involved in transporting minors complete training that addresses specified elements.

   c) Obtain written consent from the parent of the child prior to transporting a minor, and maintain documentation that written consent was obtained, including a signed acknowledgment that all provider safety, supervision, and program protections apply exclusively within the state of California. Requires the documentation to include authorization for transportation, identification of the destination, and contact information for the transport escort service.

   d) Maintain written policies governing the safety and welfare of minors during transport. Requires the policies to address, at a minimum, access to food and water, access to restroom facilities, lodging when overnight transport occurs, and procedures for delays or itinerary changes.

8) Prohibits a transport escort service, from doing either of the following:

   a) Use any of the following during transport: blindfolds, hoods, a device to obstruct a minor's vision, and except as described, behavioral restraints, as defined. Behavioral restraints may be used while transporting a minor if it is necessary to prevent imminent, serious physical harm and less restrictive alternatives are not available. Restraints shall not be used as a punishment, for staff convenience, or as a substitute for supervision of minors, and shall comply with the established human rights and safety criteria

b) Pick up a minor for transport between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

9) Specifies that a private investigator license or registration does not constitute or confer a permit to operate as a transport escort service. Provides that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to require a transport escort service, as defined, to hold a private investigator license or registration solely by reason of transporting or accompanying a minor.

10) Requires a transport escort service that performs investigative functions subject to licensure to obtain a private investigator license or registration as required for those functions.

11) Authorizes the Attorney General (AG) to bring an action in superior court to enforce these provisions if a transport escort service engages in repeated or egregious violations of the conduct standards.

12) Requires transportation services incidental to operation of a youth camp that are provided by either a nonprofit organization or an organization that operates an organized camp, as defined, serving youth 18 years of age or younger to register as a private carrier with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author, "SB 1190 addresses a gap in California law by establishing oversight for private companies that transport minors to residential treatment and behavioral programs. These companies often serve vulnerable youth but currently operate with little to no statewide regulation, leading to reports of traumatic and, in some cases, cruel practices during transport. SB 1190 creates a commonsense framework requiring licensing, background checks, training, and clear safety standards. This bill ensures that when a child is being transported to receive care, that process is safe, accountable, and not a source of further harm."

The Troubled Teen Industry The so-called "troubled teen industry" includes a range of youth residential programs designed to address emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse issues. These programs include such things as boot camps, secured group homes, therapeutic boarding schools, conversion therapy, and wilderness therapy. These programs are estimated to have between 120,00–200,00 youth residing in them and many are located in Utah. In 2021, California prohibited sending youth, including foster children, to out-of-state for-profit treatment centers after reports of rampant abuse. However, families who private pay are still able to

send their children to these out-of-state facilities, which are a billion-dollar industry.

This bill focuses on how youth are transported to these facilities, which often uses the tactic of "gooning" where men show up under cover of darkness, forcing youth into a vehicle, and taking them to facilities against their will. Parents often hire transport services to stage kidnappings of their children, violently extracting them from their homes, often in the middle of the night, to take them to facilities. Two states have passed laws regulating this practice.

In 2021, Oregon passed Senate Bill 710 . The bill establishes regulations and clarifications about types of restraints and holds that can be used on children at residential facilities as well as regulations regarding the use of involuntary seclusion. It also contains provisions regarding secure transportation service providers. Specifically, the bill provided that a person or organization that makes a referral or recommendation related to the use of a secure transportation services provider to transport a child to a school, agency, organization or program must provide a specified written referral disclosure if the child to be transferred is a resident of this state or if the school, agency, organization or program to which the secure transportation services provider will deliver the child is located in this state. The bill further provides that the referral disclosure must state "ORS 418.215 requires a secure transportation services provider that transports children to or from a school, agency, organization or program along a route that begins or ends in Oregon to be licensed by the Department of Human Services."

In 2025, Maryland passed HB 497 , the Preventing Abduction in Youth Transport Act of 2025. This law provides that when a youth is transported to a residential child care program, the youth transportation company may not use specified restraints. These include visual impairment, such as blindfolds and hoods; mechanical restraints, such as handcuffs, chains, irons, straitjackets, cloth restraints, leather restraints, plastic restraints, or other similar items; or physical restraints, including holds, or other use of physical force to restrict free movement. Such physical restraints are only allowed to prevent imminent serious physical harm to a child or others as long as there are no less restrictive alternatives. The law further provides that physical restraints may not be used as punishment, for convenience, or as a substitute for staff supervision. For youth transportation companies not under contact with the Department of Human Services, when the final intended destination is a residential child care program, a youth transportation company may not pick up a child for transport to a residential child care program between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

This bill seeks to follow in the lead of these states and provide rules to ensure proper treatment of young people who are transported to residential treatment facilities.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1043 (Grove, Chapter 628, Statutes of 2024) requires facilities operating STRTPs to provide specified information to a child subject to seclusion or behavioral restraints, their parent, foster parent, guardian, or tribal representative, and CDSS. Requires CDSS to review all reported incidents involving the use of seclusion or behavioral restraints and investigate any incidents that indicate a potential health and safety concern or licensing violation. Requires CDSS to display data that is specific to STRTPs on its website regarding the use of seclusion or behavioral restraints.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) The CPUC estimates total costs of $1.8 million (PUC Transportation Reimbursement Account) including $403,000 in ongoing costs for two additional analysts and $1.4 million in one-time contracting and IT system modification costs. The CPUC would be responsible for issuing a charter-party carrier permit with a new transport escort service designation and identifying companies it already regulates that would now become subject to this new designation. The CPUC would also be required to conduct a rulemaking to define the application process, permit designation, documentation standards, and enforcement and compliance framework left unspecified in the bill.

2) CDSS estimates ongoing General Fund costs of approximately $80 million annually for additional staff to administer the anticipated significant influx of trustline registry applications due to the broad scope of transit providers, including Transportation Network Companies, included in the bill, and to receive incident reports from transit escort services and make determinations regarding referrals to the AG for civil enforcement, based on criteria unspecified in the bill.

3) Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown, potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional filings by the AG for violations of the bill's provisions. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case.

It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions. This backfill was $117.3 million in 2025-26.

4) The Department of Justice indicates minor costs for enforcement activities.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

11:11 Media Impact (Source)
City of Artesia, California
Courage California
Educate. Advocate.
Institutional Child Abuse Prevention & Advocacy Network
Latinojustice Prldef
Lives in the Balance
Orange County United Way
Unsilenced

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/25/26 16:00:16

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1195
Author: Rubio (D)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Rubio, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Choi, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Tied-house exceptions: advertising: Counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill authorizes specified alcoholic beverage licensees to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, an on-sale licensee that is the owner, manager, or major tenant at four specified facilities in southern California, as specified.

Assembly Amendments reduce the number of covered facilities from 11 to four and clarify that an on-sale licensee is prohibited from soliciting specified licensees to

enter into an agreement that containing a provision that requires the prioritization of the sale or promotion of a specific alcoholic beverage product or brand.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and grants it exclusive authority to administer the provisions of the ABC Act in accordance with laws enacted by the Legislature. This involves licensing individuals and businesses associated with the manufacture, importation, and sale of alcoholic beverages and the collection of license fees for this purpose.

2) Separates the alcoholic beverage industry into three component parts, or tiers, of the manufacturer (including breweries, wineries, and distilleries), wholesaler, and retailer (both on-sale and off-sale). This is referred to as the "tied-house" law or "three-tier" system. Generally, other than exceptions granted by the Legislature, the holder of one type of license is not permitted to do business as another type of licensee within the "three-tier" system.

3) Prohibits, in general, a manufacturer, winegrower, manufacturer's agent, rectifier, distiller, bottler, importer, or wholesaler, or any officer, director or agent of any such person from owning, directly or indirectly, any interest in any on-sale license.

4) Prohibits, in general, a manufacturer, winegrower, distiller, bottler, or wholesaler, among other licensees, or agents of these licensees, from paying a retailer for advertising.

5) Provides a variety of exceptions from the advertising prohibition, including permitting specified licensees to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, an on-sale retail licensee that is an owner, manager, or major tenant of certain stadiums, parks, entertainment complexes, and arenas, subject to specified conditions.

This bill:

1) Authorizes a beer manufacturer, the holder of a winegrower's license, a rectifier, a craft distiller, a distilled spirits manufacturer's agency to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, an on-sale retail licensee subject to various conditions at the following locations:

a) An indoor convention center complex and arena that is at least 390,000 square feet and used for conventions, trade shows, concerts, and sporting events located in the City of Long Beach in the County of Los Angeles (Long Beach Convention Center Complex).

b) An outdoor amphitheater, which is at least 9.500 seats, that is used for live performances and owned by the City of Long Beach in the County of Los Angeles (Long Beach Bowl Amphitheater).

c) An indoor arena with at least 15,000 seats that is used for concerts, sporting events, and other shows located in Midway District neighborhoods of the City of San Diego in the County of San Diego (Pechanga Arena).

d) An arena with at least 10,000 seats that is used for concerts, other shows, and sporting competitions, including ice hockey league and soccer league located in the City of Ontario in the County of San Bernardino (Toyota Arena).

2) Prohibits an on-sale licensee from soliciting specified licensees to enter into an agreement, that, among other things, includes a provision requiring the prioritization of the sale or promotion of a specific alcoholic beverage product or brand.

3) Makes legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute, as specified.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "currently, the Legislature has recognized that certain venues, such as stadiums, arenas, and entertainment complexes operate under unique business models that rely on sponsorship and advertising partnerships to support operations and events. For that reason, California law already includes numerous statutory exceptions allowing specified venues to enter into these types of arrangements. SB 1195 continues that well-established approach by authorizing alcoholic beverage licensees to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, an on-sale licensee that is the owner, manager, or major tenant at specified facilities in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego."

Further, "this bill does not create a new policy concept. Rather, it extends an existing and familiar exception to additional venues that are similarly situated to

many others already granted this authority under state law. SB 1195 promotes consistency, fairness, and economic opportunity for these facilities while preserving the core protections of California's Tied-House laws. This bill will grant additional opportunities for local economic development in SD 22 as well as other key locations across the state."

Tied-House Laws. Tied-house laws generally prohibit suppliers and retailers from sharing common owners and legally restrict alcohol beverage suppliers' ability to gain control over retailers through indirect means. The original policy rationale for this body of law was to: (1) promote the state's interest in an orderly market; (2) prohibit the vertical integration and dominance by a single producer in the marketplace; (3) prohibit commercial bribery and to protect the public from predatory marketing practices; and (4) discourage and/or prevent the intemperate use of alcoholic beverages.

These provisions prohibit a manufacturer from paying for advertising space at any facility where the facility is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages. Over the years, numerous exceptions to this prohibition have been added to a number of stadiums, parks, entertainment complexes, and arenas. Some examples are Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Oakland Coliseum in Oakland, Honda Center in Anaheim, Kern County Arena in Bakersfield, the National Orange Show Events Center in San Bernardino, Auto Club Speedway, (formerly California Speedway) in Fontana, Grizzly Stadium in Fresno, Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento, SAP Center in San Jose, Dignity Health in Carson, and numerous other venues.

Current Safeguards. Tied-house advertising exception bills – such as this bill – generally include a consistent set of safeguards designed to prevent alcohol manufacturers and wholesalers from exerting undue influence over retailers. These bills typically limit any exception to narrowly defined, venue-specific, such as stadiums, arenas, or fairgrounds. A core safeguard is that any permitted advertising must be tied directly to events occurring at the venue, rather than general promotion of the retailer, and is frequently restricted to certain types of events like sports or entertainment. Placement of restrictions are also common ensuring that advertising does not appear inside unrelated licensed premises – such as bars or restaurants within a larger complex – and is instead confined to approved areas like the venue itself.

In addition, these bills usually require that retailers continue to offer competing brands, preventing exclusive arrangements that could distort market competition. Advertising agreements must be conducted in accordance with written contracts,

promoting transparency and enabling regulatory oversight. Anti-coercion provisions are another key feature, making clear that retailers cannot require or pressure suppliers to purchase advertising, with violations subject to criminal penalties. Overall, these safeguards reflect an effort to allow for modern advertising practices while maintaining the core protections of California's tied-house laws.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 392 (Bradford, Chapter 604, Statutes of 2023) authorizes specified licensees to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, an on-sale licensee that is the owner, manager, or major tenant of a fully enclosed arena with a seating capacity of at least 18,000 seats located in the City of Inglewood (Intuit Dome), as specified.

AB 840 (Addis, Chapter 346, Statutes of 2023) authorizes specified licensees to purchase advertising space and time from, or on behalf of, an on-sale licensee that is the owner, manager, or major tenants at various facilities that are situated on California State University campuses located in the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Fresno, Monterey, Orange, Santa Clara, and Los Angeles, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, minor and absorbable costs to ABC for related enforcement.

This committee sees a wide array of bills that propose to modify the scope of alcohol laws. Taken together, these proposals could lead to significant new costs and future budget requests. In this case, however, similar tied-house exceptions previously granted to other venues have not resulted in significant workload for ABC.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Travel Association
City of Ontario
Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce
Ontario Convention Center
ONT Field
Toyota Arena

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Alcohol Justice
California Alcohol Policy Alliance
California Craft Brewers Association
California Council on Alcohol Problems

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the City of Ontario, "this measure is especially important for the City of Ontario. The city is home to a growing cluster of regional destinations, including a large-scale arena, convention center, and newly developed minor league ballpark. These venues collectively serve hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and play a central role in driving tourism, economic activity, and job creation throughout the Inland Empire. However, current restrictions limit their ability to fully participate in sponsorship markets that are commonly available to comparable facilities elsewhere in the state. By modernizing these restrictions in a limited and thoughtful way, SB 1195 will support local economic development, enhance regional entertainment infrastructure, and provide Ontario's publicly supported venues with tools already available to their counterparts across California."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to Alcohol Justice, "knowing how vulnerable young Californians are to the most cynical of advertising strategies, efforts to prop up venues by selling alcohol ads are essentially auctioning off kids' lifelong health outcomes. In light of that, and the outsized alcohol harm currently threatening the state, there needs to be a moratorium on ad hoc exemptions, including the ones sought in this bill. In fact, it would provide extensive benefits were the ones already granted to be, cautiously and with advanced warning for the operators affected, reversed."

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/26/26 15:33:49

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1205
Author: Valladares (R)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Rubio, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Choi, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Public contracts: retention: architecture or engineering services

SOURCE: American Institute of Architects, California

DIGEST: This bill prohibits any retention payments for contracts under design-bid-build directly between a public entity and an individual or legal entity permitted by law to practice the profession of architecture or engineering from

exceeding five percent of the payment, except for specific projects where, among other things, a finding has been made that the project is substantially complex and requires a higher retention amount.

Assembly Amendments allow for the retention proceeds to exceed five percent on specific projects where the governing body of the public entity has approved a finding that, among other things, finds that the project is substantially complex and therefore requires a retention amount higher than five percent.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits the retention proceeds withheld from any payment by a public entity from the original contractor, by the original contractor from any subcontractor, and by a subcontractor from any subcontractor, from exceeding five percent of the payment for all contracts between a public agency and a contractor relating to the construction of any public works project. (Public Contract Code § 7201)

2) Defines "public works" to mean the erection, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any public structure, building, road, or other public improvement of any kind.

3) Prohibits a retention payment withheld from a payment by an owner from the direct contractor, by the direct contractor from any subcontractor, and by a subcontractor from any subcontractor thereunder, for a private work of improvement, from exceeding five percent of the payment. (Civil Code § 8811)

This bill:

1) Provides that any retention payments for contracts under design-bid-build directly between a public entity and an individual or legal entity permitted by law to practice the profession of architecture or engineering shall not exceed five percent of the payment. The bill exempts specific projects where, among other things, a finding has been made that the project is substantially complex and requires a higher retention amount, as specified.

2) Requires that any retention withheld shall be released no later than 60 days upon completion of the firm's design services under contract, regardless of whether the project for which the services were provided has been completed.

3) Defines "firm" to mean an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity permitted by law to practice the profession of architecture or engineering.

4) Defines "public entity" to mean the state, including every state agency, office, department, division, bureau, board, or commission, the California State University, the University of California, a city, county, city and county, including charter cities and charter counties, district, special district, public authority, political subdivision, public corporation, or nonprofit transit corporation wholly owned by a public agency and formed to carry out the purposes of the public agency.

Background

Author's Statement. According to the author's office, "California relies on architects to design safe, resilient, and innovative public infrastructure. Yet under current practice, many architects are forced to wait years to receive full payment for work they completed long before construction is finished. SB 1205 ensures that payment practices reflect the realities of professional services, not construction risk. This bill supports small businesses, improves cash flow, and promotes a more efficient and equitable public contracting system."

Five-Percent Retention Cap. The five percent retention cap represents a critical policy for the construction industry, particularly in supporting small and emerging contractors. By limiting the amount of payment withheld, the cap helps ensure these businesses maintain sufficient cash flow to meet ongoing obligations, including payroll, employee benefits, material costs, and applicable taxes. Given the typically low profit margins in construction, timely and predictable payments are essential to sustaining operations. This financial stability enables contractors to continue bidding on future public works projects without relying on costly lines of credit or operating under uncertain financial conditions. Absent the retention cap, contractors may face constrained cash flow and heightened financial risk, limiting their ability to compete and remain viable.

In California and many other states, a public agency is entitled to withhold a percentage of a contract which allows the public agency to maintain some control over the project and ensure that the contractor performs the work, on time, and within a budget. Prior to 2011, state law allowed a public agency to retain no less than five percent from the contractor until the project was completed; the usual standard for public entities was 10%, although this was not set by statute. In 2011,

SB 293 (Padilla, Chapter 700, Statutes of 2011) was enacted which capped the percentage that could be withheld to five percent.

The only identified exception to the five percent retention limit is when a public entity deems that a project is substantially complex during a properly noticed and regularly scheduled public meeting prior to bidding the project. In that case, retention proceeds may exceed the five percent retention cap.

Determining whether a project is substantially complex for purposes of requiring retention in excess of five percent must be analyzed and approved on a project-by-project basis. The finding and the designated retention amount must be included in the project's bid documents. Existing law establishing the general five percent retention limit but allowing higher retention for substantially complex. Last year, Governor Newsom signed SB 61 (Cortese, Chapter 49, Statutes of 2025) which established a five percent cap on retention on most private construction projects – bringing private sector rules in line with existing public works law.

However, while a five percent retention cap is an established policy standard for construction projects, no equivalent statutory limitation exists for professional services contracts, including those for architects and engineers. According to the author's office, public entities often apply construction-style retention provisions to architectural contracts, withholding up to 10% of payments. Unlike contractors, architects typically complete their scope of work well before construction is finished; however, retained funds are frequently not released until overall project completion, which may occur years after design services are rendered. The author's office contends that, for smaller and mid-sized firms, these delayed payments can significantly affect business operations and hiring decisions.

This bill establishes a five percent retention cap for all contracts between a public entity and a licensed architect or engineer. It would also require that any retention withheld be released no later than 60 days after completion of the firm's design services, regardless of whether the broader construction project has been completed. The bill exempts specific projects where, among other things, a finding has been made that the project is substantially complex and requires a higher retention amount, as specified.

According to the author's office, this approach "will ensure that architects are paid in a timely manner upon completion of their scope of work, rather than being tied to construction completion." In doing so, the bill seeks to align payment practices with the actual risk profile of professional services, modernize public contracting, and promote fair and timely compensation for design professionals.

Design-Bid-Build. Design–bid–build (DBB) is a construction project delivery method in which the work is completed in three distinct, sequential phases: design, bidding, and construction. In California this is a "traditional" method that is frequently used for public infrastructure projects. First, the project owner hires a designer—typically an architect or engineer—to develop complete plans and specifications for the project. Once the design is finalized, the project moves into the bidding phase, where contractors submit competitive bids based on those plans, and the owner usually selects the lowest responsible bidder. After a contractor is chosen, the project enters the construction phase, during which the contractor builds the project according to the completed design. This method is widely used because it provides a clear structure, defined roles, and a transparent bidding process that can help control costs.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 61 (Cortese, Chapter 49, Statutes of 2025) prohibits an owner, direct contractor, or a subcontractor of a private work of improvement from withholding a retention payment from a direct contractor or subcontractor of more than five percent, except as specified.

AB 1885 (Carillo, 2026) reduces that amount of retention proceeds state agencies may withhold, from 5% to 3.5% from a progress payment to certain contractors on a public works project. (Pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee)

AB 2173 (Petrie-Norris, Chapter 121, Statutes of 2022) removed the sunset clause on the five percent retention cap policy related to public works.

AB 92 (Bonta, Chapter 37, Statutes of 2017) extended, from January 1, 2018, to January 1, 2023, the sunset date on existing statutes governing the amount of money a public agency can retain from a contractor or subcontractor prior to completion of a public works project.

AB 1705 (Williams, Chapter 670, Statutes of 2014) limited the circumstances under which public agencies may withhold more than five percent of total payment amounts for time and materials on substantially complex public works projects and extended the repeal date of the provisions governing retention proceeds from January 1, 2016, to January 1, 2018.

SB 293 (Padilla, Chapter 700, Statutes of 2011) capped the amount of money that public agencies can withhold from a contractor prior to completion of a public

works project at five percent of the total contract, with specified exceptions, with a sunset of January 1, 2016.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, likely absorbable costs to impacted state and local entities to adjust retention payment rules.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

American Institute of Architects, California (Source)
American Council of Engineering Companies of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the American Council of Engineering Companies of California, "SB 1205 aligns with this policy by reinforcing a 5% on retention for contracts involving design professionals working with public agencies. It also supports timely release of any retained funds, ensuring payments are issued within 60 days after completion of services."

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/26/26 15:30:24

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1208
Author: Grayson (D)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 27

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Money laundering: digital assets

SOURCE: Department of Justice

DIGEST: This bill, until January 1, 2032, expands the crime of money laundering to include digital assets, and establishes a process by which a law enforcement officer or prosecuting agency may seize digital assets that contain proceeds of a crime, are traceable to a crime, or have been used to facilitate a crime, as specified, for the purpose of returning those assets to a victim.

Assembly Amendments applies this bill's provisions to "digital assets," as defined, rather than "digital financial assets"; limit the crimes for which related digital assets may be seized; require the prosecution to meet an initial evidentiary burden; establish a limited appeals process for resolved claims; require seized funds to

revert to the Restitution Fund after a specified period; strikes an intent statement regarding jurisdiction; creates reporting requirements for local law enforcement and prosecuting agencies; sunsets this bill's provisions in 2032.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) The Digital Financial Assets Law (DFAW), generally governs the digital financial asset business activity of a person doing business in California or, wherever located, who engages in or holds itself out as engaging in the activity with, or on behalf of a resident, except for activity by several specified entities. (Financial (Fin.) Code, §§ 3101 et. seq.)

2) Defines "digital financial asset" and "digital financial asset business activity" for the purposes of DFAW. (Fin. Code, § 3102, subds. (g), (i).)

3) Provides that, beginning July 1, 2025, a person shall not engage in digital financial asset business activity, or hold itself out as being able to engage in digital financial asset business activity, with or on behalf of a resident of the state unless any of several specified conditions are true. (Fin. Code, § 3201; see id., §§ 3201-3225.)

4) Defines "criminal profiteering" as an act committed or attempted or a threat made for financial gain or advantage, which act or threat may be charged as a crime under several specified criminal statutes, including as embezzlement, extortion, receiving stolen property, violation of laws governing corporate securities, money laundering, offenses relating to unauthorized access to computers, computers systems, or computer data, and several others. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §186.2)

5) Provides that in any case in which a person is alleged to have been engaged in a pattern of criminal profiteering activity, as defined, upon a conviction of the underlying offense, the assets specified assets shall be subject to forfeiture upon proof of the profiteering activity. (Pen. Code, §186.3, subd. (a).)

6) Sets forth requirements and procedures regarding a forfeiture action filed by the prosecution resulting from criminal profiteering crimes. (Pen. Code, §§ 186.4 – 186.8.)

7) Provides that any person who conducts or attempts to conduct a transaction or more than one transaction within a seven-day period involving a monetary instrument or instruments of a total value exceeding $5,000, or a total value

exceeding $25,000 within a 30-day period, through one or more financial institutions (1) with the specific intent to promote, manage, establish, carry on, or facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, or carrying on of any criminal activity, or (2) knowing that the monetary instrument represents the proceeds of, or is derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of, criminal activity, is guilty of the crime of money laundering. (Pen. Code, § 186.10, subd. (a).)

8) Provides that the aggregation periods do not create an obligation for financial institutions to record, report, create, or implement tracking systems or otherwise monitor transactions involving monetary instruments in any time period. (*Ibid.*)

9) Provides that in consideration of the constitutional right to counsel afforded by the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Section 15 of Article I of the California Constitution, when a case involves an attorney who accepts a fee for representing a client in a criminal investigation or proceeding, the prosecution shall additionally be required to prove that the monetary instrument was accepted by the attorney with the intent to disguise or aid in disguising the source of the funds or the nature of the criminal activity. (*Ibid.*)

10) Provides that a violation of this statute shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year or as a realigned felony, by a fine of not more than $ 250,000 or twice the value of the property transacted, whichever is greater, or by both that imprisonment and fine. However, for a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of this section, the maximum fine that may be imposed is $500,000 or five times the value of the property transacted, whichever is greater. (*Ibid.*)

11) Provides that, for the purposes of this statute, each individual transaction conducted in excess of $5,000, each series of transactions conducted within a seven-day period that total in excess of $5,000, or each series of transactions conducted within a 30-day period that total in excess of $25,000, shall constitute a separate, punishable offense. (Pen. Code, § 186.10, subd. (b).)

12) Provides that in any instance where money laundering is punished as a felony, the defendant shall be subject to additional terms of imprisonment depending on the value of the transaction or transactions. (Pen. Code, § 186.10, subd. (c)(1).)

13) Specifies that any additional term of imprisonment shall not be imposed unless the facts of a transaction or transactions, or attempted transaction or transactions,

of the alleged value, are charged in the accusatory pleading, and are either admitted to by the defendant or are found to be true by the trier of fact. (Pen. Code, § 186.10, subd. (c)(2).

14) Creates the Restitution Fund to facilitate the restitution of victims of crime who incur an economic loss as a result of the commission of a crime. (Pen. Code, § 1202.4; Gov. Code, §§ 13950 et. seq.)

This bill:

1) Expands the crime of money laundering to include digital assets, but only until January 1, 2032.

2) Defines “digital asset” as any digital representation of value which is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or similar technology.

3) Authorizes a law enforcement officer or public prosecutor to obtain a search warrant to seize digital assets or wallets, accounts, or similar things containing digital assets (collectively "digital assets") upon a showing of probable cause that the assets meet either of the following:

   a) Contain or have contained the proceeds of a crime or proceeds traceable to a specified crime.

   b) Have been used to facilitate a specified crime.

   c) Contain or have contained digital assets involved in money laundering or traceable to such property.

4) States that the warrant application shall specify any centralized exchanges, custodians of digital assets, addresses, or other locations assets from which digital assets will be seized, and that the affidavit shall describe how the warrant will be served, such as delivery to a known law enforcement portal of a person engaged in business activity related to digital assets.

5) Provides that the search warrant shall specify the amount of digital assets to be seized from each location, and that the search warrant may authorize seizure of either:

   a) All digital assets where money laundering can be shown or digital assets traceable to such property, or

   b) The amount of digital assets traceable to crime.

6) Specifies that the search warrant may authorize seizure of digital assets related to crimes and victims in other jurisdictions so long as jurisdiction relating to a California crime is established.

7) Authorizes a law enforcement officer to send a written request to freeze digital assets to allow time to pursue a search warrant pursuant to this bill, and requires a person or group of persons receiving such a request to freeze the relevant digital assets for ten calendar days from receipt of the request, if the person or group is capable of complying.

8) Authorizes the centralized exchange, digital assets issuer, or other party to notify the possessor of the digital assets that they have been frozen at the request of a California law enforcement agency.

9) Provides that the court shall issue a warrant where jurisdiction is established and probable cause appears in the affidavit.

10) Requires law enforcement, upon issuance of the warrant, to execute the warrant by taking the digital assets into law enforcement custody for safekeeping or taking such other actions as are necessary to prevent the property from being transferred or dissipated.

11) States that within 180 days of any seizure of digital assets conducted pursuant to a warrant, a public prosecutor may initiate a special proceeding of a criminal nature by applying to the court on behalf of the People of the State of California to forfeit the seized digital assets, but if no such proceeding is initiated, and no other law prohibits the return, the seized digital assets shall be returned to the party from whom they were seized, unless prohibited by law. The prosecuting agency shall have the initial burden of establishing by a preponderance of the evidence as shown in a declaration attached to the application, that the seized property falls within the crimes defined by the amended search warrant statute. The court shall summarily dismiss the application if it does not establish that the property falls within the crimes defined by the amended search warrant statute.

12) Provides that if a special proceeding is initiated, the public prosecutor must make efforts reasonably calculated to provide notice to all readily ascertainable potential owners of such property, and anyone with a known security interest. Each person noticed has thirty days to file a verified claim. The thirty-day period begins on the date of service. The court shall not extend the time for filing a claim unless a potential claimant files a request for extension of time, including a declaration showing good cause for the extension. For a special proceeding,

the court shall be required to make a finding on the record that establishes by a preponderance of the evidence the court's jurisdiction over the property at issue.

13) States that a verified claim must be filed under penalty of perjury and supported by admissible evidence, and that the claimant bears the burden by a preponderance of the evidence to show that the seized digital assets belong to the claimant and were obtained by legitimate means.

14) Establishes that if the claimant is a natural person the claim must include specified identifying information regarding the claimant, including a photograph of the claimant and of an identity document, as specified, and must respond to all allegations in the petition for forfeiture and be supported by the evidence upon which the claimant intends to rely. If the claimant is a legal entity recognized by California law, the verified claim shall set forth the legal entity's registered name and business address, as well as the telephone number and email address of its authorized representative.

15) Specifies that upon filing of a claim, unless it is denied as plainly without merit, the court shall give the prosecuting agency time to file a response with any additional evidence and argument related to the claim, and considering all relevant evidence, shall decide the claim and file an order resolving the claim or setting a hearing.

16) States that any resolution of disputed issues related to a claim shall be at a court hearing, and that the court may halt proceedings at any time if it determines that it has sufficient information to resolve the claim and issue an ordering resolving the validity of the claim, as specified.

17) Provides after all claims are resolved, the court shall issue a final judgement forfeiting the remaining digital assets. The judgment may be reviewed only by a writ of mandate from the court of appeal. Unless the court of appeal issues a stay, after 30 days ownership the forfeited digital assets shall immediately transfer to the prosecuting agency for distribution to the victims, as specified.

18) Requires the seized funds to be used to compensate victims of the crimes or fraud schemes underlying an action pursuant to this bill, up to the value of their actual loss, and authorizes the prosecuting agency to establish a claims procedure to include victims whose cases were not used to establish the underlying crimes or fraud schemes, subject to specified requirements.

19) States that if a prosecuting agency determines that a claims procedure to identify additional victims is inappropriate or impractical, the agency shall still be

required to return funds to all victims whose cases were used as part of this action on a pro rata basis up to the amount of the actual loss.

20) Establishes that any digital assets not distributed to victims as set forth above shall be kept in the custody of the law enforcement or prosecuting agency for a maximum of three years, upon which time the assets shall be deposited into the Restitution Fund exclusively for the purpose of providing victim services.

21) Provides that a special proceeding to recover digital assets may be filed in any county where any victim of the underlying crimes or fraud schemes resides or in any county where any portion of the crimes or underlying fraud schemes occurred, and may be prosecuted by a City Attorney, District Attorney, or the Attorney General.

22) Specifies the manner in which service of process may be made.

23) Sunsets the forfeiture process outlined above on January 1, 2032.

24) Requires, beginning July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter until 2032, a prosecuting agency or the law enforcement agency of a law enforcement officer that seeks a search warrant to seize property pursuant to this section to report to the Department of Justice specified information related to search warrants and property seized:

25) Provides that on or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter until 2032, the Department of Justice shall report the information provided to the Legislature and publish it on its internet website.

26) Includes legislative findings and declarations.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Court cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). The Judicial Council identifies four sources of workload:
    - Expanding the crime of money laundering would generate additional hearings, in a volume dependent on how often filings are brought.
    - The bill's search warrant requirements would likely lead to additional warrants being submitted for judicial determination and would require

additional time to review the jurisdictional questions the bill poses; the Judicial Council characterizes this as an unknown, potentially significant impact on judicial officer workload.

- The new civil asset forfeiture procedure would generate new hearings involving an unknown number of claimants.

- The Judicial Council states that under existing case law, each claimant could request a jury trial to establish a claim and recover the assets, and the Judicial Council states that depending on the total number of filings and the mix of bench and jury trials, the new forfeiture process could create significant impacts on court calendars at both the trial and appellate levels.

- Actual cost pressures will depend on the number of proceedings prosecuting agencies elect to bring and the complexity of each. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund (GF). The state budget provides annual GF backfills to the TCTF to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in 2025-26.

- Costs of an unknown amount (GF) to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop the reporting manner and format, receive and compile submissions from prosecuting agencies and law enforcement agencies statewide beginning July 1, 2028, and prepare and publish an annual report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter through the repeal

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Department of Justice (source)
Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Bankers Association
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Community Banking Network
California Credit Union League
California District Attorneys Association
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association

California Reserve Peace Officers Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Little Hoover Commission
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside County District Attorney
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

ACLU California Action
California Public Defenders Association
Judicial Council of California

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/25/26 12:59:55

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1213
Author: Reyes (D)
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Zero- and near-zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles: incentives: transparency

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: Makes the inclusion of any medium- and heavy-duty vehicle in specified incentive programs that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and

the California Energy Commission (CEC) administer conditioned on the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) complying with certain transparency requirements around vehicle pricing.

Assembly Amendments expand CARB's considerations and requirements in administering grant programs and make other technical and conforming changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Air Resources Board (CARB) as the air pollution control agency in California and requires CARB, among other things, to control emissions from a wide array of mobile sources and coordinate, encourage, and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §39500 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) in the State Treasury, requires all monies, except for fines and penalties, collected pursuant to a market-based mechanism be deposited in the fund. (Government Code §16428.8)

3) Establishes the Clean Truck, Bus, and Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Technology Program to be administered by CARB in conjunction with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to fund development, demonstration, precommercial pilot, and early commercial deployment of zero- and near-zero-emission truck, bus, and off-road vehicle and equipment technologies through a number of incentive programs. (HSC §39719.2)

4) Establishes the Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program (known as the Clean Transportation Program, or CTP), administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC), to develop and deploy technologies and alternative and renewable fuels to help attain the state's climate change policies, and provides funding for the CTP from miscellaneous vehicle-related charges including vehicle registration fees, boat registration fees, and special license identification fees. **(**HSC § 44272)

This bill:

1) Makes findings and declarations regarding the value and importance of competition and transparency in California's ZEV fleet.

2) Establishes transparency requirements for ZEV incentives, including requiring the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to provide the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) for all ZEVs that may be funded by California ZEV incentives; a final purchase order for each vehicle that contains specified information; and any data needed to effectively track vehicle pricing behavior, as specified, to the administering agency quarterly.

3) Requires all medium- and heavy-duty vehicle incentive programs that receive funding from GGRF, the California Clean Fuel Reward (funded through the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard), or the Clean Transportation Program to comply with the above transparency requirements.

4) Requires CARB to, in coordination with the CEC, every 6 months, compile and make available publicly the above data, as specified.

5) Establishes penalties for noncompliance, including immediate suspension of eligibility for state incentive programs, recovery of previously dispersed funds found to be based on false data or through anticompetitive pricing or sales behavior, and allowing CARB to coordinate with the Attorney General to investigate.

6) Directs CARB to annually reevaluate the cap on the purchase of unredeemed state vouchers under HVIP with the goal of increasing the cap (to a maximum of 90% of the total purchase price) to maximize the benefits of ZEVs deployed, and to increase the cap on vehicles that provide a direct and meaningful benefit, as determined by CARB, to DACs.

7) Requires CARB, on or before January 1, 2028, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) to explore alternative financing opportunities to encourage the deployment of medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs, and report those findings to the Legislature, as specified.

Background

California's transportation emissions. The transportation sector has long relied on liquid petroleum fuels as the primary energy source for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, including cars, trucks, locomotives, marine equipment, and aircraft.

Combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles emits significant amounts of GHGs, criteria pollutants, and toxic air contaminants. In 2019, the transportation sector accounted for approximately 50% of statewide GHG emissions and thus was by far the single largest source of carbon pollution in the state. In addition, the transportation sector accounted for over 80% of statewide NOx emissions and 30% of fine particulate matter emissions, including toxic diesel particulate matter.

While we have made substantial progress over the past few decades, it is clear California must transition away from fossil fuels to zero-emission technologies with all possible speed and pursue policies that result in less driving, to meet its GHG and air quality targets.

The Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project. HVIP accelerates the deployment of zero-emission and plug-in hybrid trucks and buses, and trucks equipped with electric power take off systems, in California. HVIP stimulates deployment of advanced clean commercial vehicles, with the goal of improving community health with immediate air pollution emission reductions, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help meet State climate goals, and yielding substantial economic benefits. In addition, HVIP provides increased incentives for small fleets domiciled in disadvantaged communities and meeting other requirements.

The complicated relationship between California and truck manufacturers. California occupies a unique position as the state with both the most ambitious vehicle emission standards and the state with the largest vehicle fleet. This has been particularly fraught in recent years, as actions taken by the federal government have repeatedly and significantly eroded California's longstanding authority to set and enforce stricter-than-required vehicle emission standards.

a) *The Clean Truck Partnership and ensuing legal difficulties.* Signed by manufacturers and CARB in July 2023, the Clean Truck Partnership was designed to align state and federal emissions standards while ensuring manufacturers continue advancing zero-emission vehicle technology. In the agreement, the manufacturers pledged to meet California's Advanced Clean Trucks and Omnibus regulations regardless of federal legal outcomes, and to refrain from challenging California's authority to set stricter emissions rules. CARB, in turn, agreed to revise certain heavy-duty engine standards and provide manufacturers with regulatory flexibility and longer lead times to comply with emissions rules.

However, after the Partnership had been established, the federal government changed and subsequently intervened. Under the current administration, the U.S. Department of Justice advised manufacturers that the Clean Truck Partnership was preempted by federal law, and the Federal Trade Commission asserted that the Clean Truck Partnership ran afoul of antitrust laws.

In August of 2025, plaintiffs Daimler Truck North America, International Motors, PACCAR, and Volvo Group North America filed a lawsuit against CARB alleging that California was attempting to require compliance with heavy-duty truck emissions standards that Congress recently preempted under the federal Clean Air Act.[1] In October of 2025, CARB filed a suit against the above plaintiffs, alleging that they violated the terms of the Clean Truck Partnership, and sought to compel companies to either uphold their commitments or compensate the state accordingly.[2] In November of 2025, a federal judge temporarily block California from enforcing the Clean Truck Partnership while the case proceeds.[3]

b) *Truck Availability Analysis.* After the Clean Truck Partnership was established but still under the Biden presidency, a separate dispute was unfolding. Based on consistent feedback CARB had been receiving in developing and amending regulations involving heavy-duty trucks, an investigation was launched into how OEMs were responding to said regulations. A report published by CARB in September of 2024 found that certain provisions intended to allow flexibility in OEMs' compliance were instead being used to mislead dealers.[4] Specifically, CARB found that, "Through discussions with manufacturers, dealers, and fleets, it appears numerous manufacturers have begun to inform their customers they will be applying future requirements to purchase ZEVs before they can acquire combustion vehicles to each of their dealer or upfitters regardless of the types of vehicles they sell as ZEVs." CARB emphasized that this was not required in the regulations, and that flexibility was in fact provided to avoid such situations.

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[1] Truck OEMs Challenge Clean Truck Partnership in Federal Court. August 11, 2025. **https://www.act-news.com/news/truck-oems-file-federal-lawsuit-against-carb-over-clean-truck-partnership/**
[2] CARB Takes Legal Action Against Truck OEMs in Clean Truck Dispute. October 29, 2025. **https://www.act-news.com/news/carb-takes-legal-action-against-truck-oems-in-clean-truck-dispute/**
[3] Federal Court Pauses Enforcement of California's Clean Truck Partnership. November 4, 2025 **https://www.act-news.com/news/federal-court-pauses-enforcement-of-ctp/**
[4] **https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/240925_actmemo_ADA_0.pdf**

Moreover (and most germanely to SB 1213), CARB reported investigations into pricing discrepancies between ZEV and ICE trucks between California and Europe. Despite largely the same major manufacturers operating in both jurisdictions, CARB found that ZEV heavy-duty tractors cost on average $88,828 more in California versus Europe (or $51,784 when accounting for all other incremental price differences).[5] Furthermore, in the 2021-2022 range CARB assessed, they found that California's ZEV trucks increased by $86,512 at the same time that Europe's ZEV trucks decreased by $12,641. Ultimately, CARB stated that, "There appear to be no clear reasons for this disparity between regions."[6]

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "California is a leader in the deployment of clean medium and heavy-duty vehicles, both to meet our clean transportation goals and mitigate the detrimental public health impacts that pollutants such as PM2.5 and NOX have on our most vulnerable communities. To deploy these vehicles as quickly as possible, the state has invested in programs such as California's Clean Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP), which delivered more than $1 billion in funding to fleets statewide since its inception, supporting more than 11,600 clean vehicles statewide.

   "Though these incentives were structured to reduce the cost of transitioning to cleaner transportation, recent research from the International Council on Clean Transportation found that the average price of electric trucks in the US has increased by 32% even as battery costs have declined and electric truck prices in the European Union have fallen by 27% over the same period. The rise in the sticker price of these trucks indicates that more needs to be done to ensure our state's incentives to transition to cleaner fleets are transparent and competitive.

   "SB 1213 maintains California's leadership in the deployment of clean medium and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDV) by placing price transparency requirements on incentive programs. In addition, it increases the cap on the number of vehicles that can be covered through vouchers, and directs the state to explore alternative financing models by 2028. These alternative funding models are intended to help bring in more private capital to the space as well, decreasing the ultimate need for state funding, and moving the market to a time when

[5] Ibid
[6] Ibid

financing for a zero emission truck will be as affordable and easy to get as any other loan."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) CARB estimates costs of about $3.8 million in the first year and $2.5 million annually thereafter (GGRF and Cost of Implementation Account) for about 1,210 positions and contract funding to annually reevaluate the cap on the purchase of unredeemed state vouchers issued through HVIP and associated requirements; include transparency requirements for programs that receive GGRF funding (like HVIP, the Sustainable Heavy-Duty Initiatives for Future Technology program, the Innovative Small e-Fleet pilot program, the Zero-Emission School Bus and Infrastructure Program, and others); make necessary implementation manual revisions to include new data to be collected; conduct public engagement and coordinate with stakeholders; coordinate with third-party administrators to collect additional information from OEMs and, in cases where manufacturer suggested retail prices (MSRPs) are unavailable, identify and collect surrogate information; evaluate and anonymize data from OEMs and update vehicle model eligibility on an ongoing basis; and coordinate with GO-Biz and IBank on reporting requirements.

2) GO-Biz estimates a one-time cost of approximately $78,000 annually (General Fund or special fund) to coordinate across agencies, perform research, collaborate with private sector stakeholders; and support other ad hoc report needs.

3) IBank anticipates that consulting with ARB and GO-Biz on possible alternative funding opportunities for a report would result in minor and absorbable costs. However, if IBank is to perform more extensive work and research on the required report, IBank anticipates a one-time cost of approximately $68,000 (General Fund or special fund).

4) CEC anticipates any costs would be minor and absorbable.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

American Lung Association
Apen Action
California Environmental Voters
California Interfaith Power & Light

California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAEJ)
Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC)
Ceres
Climate Action California
Coalition for Clean Air
Communities for a Better Environment
E2
Earthjustice
Federation of American Scientists
Green Latinos
Greenlining Institute
Humble Robotics
Little Manila Rising
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air
Natural Resources Defense Council
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Neighbors for Clean Air
Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)
Sierra Club
Sierra Club California
Smart Freight Centre
The Climate Center
Union of Concerned Scientists

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

Prepared by: Heather Walters / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/25/26 15:56:58

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1223
Author: Padilla (D)
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, McNerney, Padilla
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Fairs: contracting

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill would prohibit a fair from issuing any invitation to bid or request for proposal, in connection with the awarding of a contract, for services to any person or entity, in a manner that limits the bidding directly or indirectly to any one bidder. The bill would make any contract awarded in violation of this prohibition void.

Assembly Amendments Clarify exemptions for emergencies, as defined in Section 1102 of the Public Contract Code, when a contract is necessary for the immediate preservation of public health, welfare, or safety, or the protection of property, as well as contracts with musicians or musical groups for live performance events.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Fairs & Expositions (F&E) Branch. The F&E provides fiscal and policy oversight of the network of California fairs (Food and Agricultural (FAC) Code Section 3001-4703).

2) Defines "fair," or "state-designated fairground," to mean:

   a) The California Exposition and State Fair in the City of Sacramento and those fairs specified in Sections 3102, 3103, and 3104 that may receive financial support or are otherwise governed pursuant to this chapter. These fairs may also be referred to as part of the "network of California fairs."

   b) A nonprofit organization that holds an annual fair pursuant to Section 4163 may elect to be a member of the network of California fairs on terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by the department and the nonprofit organization.

   c) A joint powers agency that holds an annual fair pursuant to Section 4171 may elect to be a member of the network of California fairs on terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by the department and the joint powers agency (FAC Section 3101).

3) Defines the district agricultural associations and their locations (FAC Section 3102).

4) Defines the county fairs and their locations (FAC Section 3103).

5) Defines the citrus fruit fairs and their locations (FAC Section 3104).

6) States the board must establish and publish competitive bidding procedures for the award of a procurement or contract involving an expenditure of more than $100,000.

7) States the competitive bidding procedures shall include, but not be limited to:

   a) Requirements for submission of bids and accompanying documentation

   b) Guidelines for the use of requests for proposals (RFP), invitations to bid, or other methods of bidding

c) A bid protest procedure (FAC Section 4051(b)(1)).

8) Mandates that any change of the RFP rules must be communicated to all vendors (California Public Contract Code Section 12104.5).

9) Prohibits a state agency from drafting an RFP on a public contract for services to be rendered to the state in a way that directly or indirectly limits bidding to any one bidder. Any contract awarded in violation of subdivision (a) shall be void (Public Contract Code Section 10339(a) and (b)).

10) The Department of General Services (DGS) shall prescribe the following:

a) The conditions under which a contract may be awarded without competition, and the methods and criteria which shall be used in determining the reasonableness of contract costs when a contract is awarded without competition.

b) Any special requirements for evaluating multiple-year contracts which the department deems necessary to protect the financial interest of the state.

c) For contracts of less than twenty thousand dollars ($20,000), the conditions under which some or all of the provisions of this article may be waived in order to assist agencies in obtaining services and consultant services in a efficient and timely manner (Public Contract Code Section 10348).

d) The California Department of General Services State Administrative Manual (SAM) exempts from competitive bidding public entertainment contracts for state-sponsored fairs and expositions (SAM Section 1233, Management Memo 03-10).

This bill:

1) Adds Section 3107 to the Food and Agricultural Code to state:

a) A fair shall not issue any invitation to bid or request for proposal, in connection with the awarding of a contract, for services to any person or entity, in a manner that limits the bidding directly or indirectly to any one bidder.

b) Any contract awarded in violation of subdivision (a) shall be void.

c) Provides exemptions to this code emergencies, as defined in Section 1102 of the Public Contract Code, when a contract is necessary for the immediate

preservation of public health, welfare, or safety, or the protection of property, as well as contracts with musicians or musical groups for live performance events.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

This bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Appropriations via Senate Rule 28.8.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:
According to the author:

"California's fairs are a tradition that brings communities together each year to celebrate and enjoy local agriculture, food, and entertainment. In order for these fairs to operate, they manage millions of dollars in contracts each year to provide rides, food vendors, and other services. Recent investigations have revealed that competitive bidding requirements do not apply to state fairs. Bids are being written in a way that applies only to a single contractor, opening the door to favoritism and corruption. SB 1223 would prohibit a fair from issuing a request for proposal or invitation to bid that is written in a way that applies only to one party, helping to protect competitive bidding in fair contracts."

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
8/26/26 15:48:54

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1227
Author: Durazo (D)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Ochoa Bogh

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Department of Industrial Relations: apprenticeship pilot program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and the Department of Human Resources (CalHR) to partner with their respective bargaining units to design and develop an apprenticeship program, as specified, addressing DIR's staffing challenges for filling civil service classification positions.

Assembly Amendments place the bill's provisions in the Government Code instead of the Labor Code and make corresponding changes to code section and chapter numbers.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) within the Department of Industrial Relations to oversee apprenticeship programs and requires the Chief of the Division (Chief) to perform various functions to promote the welfare of apprentices. (Labor Code §3070 et seq.)

2) Creates, within DAS, the Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA), which provides advice and guidance to the Administrator of Apprenticeship and Chief on the development and administration of standards governing preapprenticeship, certification, and on-the-job training and retraining programs outside the building and construction trades and firefighters. (Labor Code §3071.5)

3) Requires DAS to evaluate apprenticeship programs to ensure compliance with specified standards, including that all on-the-job training is properly supervised, that classroom instruction is provided, and that funds were properly obtained and expended. (Labor Code §3073.1)

4) Authorizes a joint apprenticeship committee, unilateral management or labor apprenticeship committee, or an individual employer to administer an apprenticeship program. The Chief may approve programs in any trade in the state or in a city or trade area, whenever the apprentice training needs justify the establishment. Where a collective bargaining agreement exists, a program shall be jointly sponsored unless either party to the agreement waives its right to representation in writing. (Labor Code §3075(a))

5) Defines "apprentice" to mean a person at least 16 years of age who has entered into a written agreement, or apprentice agreement, with an employer or program sponsor. The Chief shall approve the term of apprenticeship for each apprenticeable occupation, as specified. (Labor Code §3077)

6) Provides that the term of apprenticeship may be measured either through the completion of the industry standard for hours of on-the-job learning and related and supplemental instruction, attainment of competency, or a hybrid blend of the time-based and competency-based approaches, as specified, but that programs in the building and construction trades and for firefighters shall use the time-based approach. (Labor Code §3078.5)

7) Requires the local joint apprenticeship committee or the parties to a collective bargaining agreement, or the administrator where there is no collective bargaining agreement or joint committee to approve apprentice agreements. Every apprentice agreement shall be signed by the employer, or his or her agent, or by a program sponsor, as specified, and by the apprentice. (Labor Code §3079)

8) Provides that neither existing law nor approved apprentice agreements can operate to invalidate any apprenticeship provision in any collective bargaining agreement between employers and employees setting up higher apprenticeship standards. (Labor Code §3086)

9) Provides that acceptance of an application for entrance into an apprenticeship program shall not be predicated on the payment of any fee, but that reasonable costs for expense incurred may be charged after an applicant has been accepted into the program. (Labor Code §3091)

10) Allows apprenticeship sponsors to include local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), labor organizations, and nonprofits, and encourages alignment of apprenticeship programs with affirmative action and public sector workforce needs. (Labor Code §§3075, 3075.1)

11) Creates the state civil service that includes every officer and employee of the state except a limited number of specified, exempted officers and employees. Existing law also requires that the state make "permanent appointment and promotion in the civil service under a general system based on merit ascertained by competitive examination." Case law and custom refer to this provision as the merit principle and it governs the administration of the state's civil service system. (California Constitution (CA CONST.) art. VII, §1 and §4)

12) Creates the State Personnel Board (SPB) to enforce the civil service statutes and prescribe probationary periods and classifications, adopt other rules authorized by statute, and review disciplinary actions. (CA CONST. art. VII, §2 and §3)

13) Establishes the State Civil Service Act to facilitate the operation of the Constitution's merit principle for the state civil service. (Government Code §18500).

14) Creates the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) and vests it with the powers, duties, and authorities necessary to operate the state civil

service system pursuant to Article VII of the California Constitution, the Government Code, the merit principle, and applicable rules duly adopted by the State Personnel Board (SPB). (Government Code (GC) § 18502)

15) Requires SPB to establish minimum qualifications for determining the fitness and qualifications of employees for each class of position, including education, experience, knowledge, and abilities that each applicant is required to have to be considered eligible for a classification. CalHR may require applicants for examination or appointment to provide documentation as it deems necessary to establish the applicants' qualifications. (GC §18931)

16) Requires that an employee serve a probationary period under the following circumstances: (a) when the employee enters or is promoted in the state civil service by permanent appointment from an employment list, (b) upon reinstatement after a break in continuity of service resulting from a permanent separation, or (c) after any other type of appointment situation not specifically excepted from the probationary period requirement by statute or by board rule. (GC § 19171)

17) Requires SPB to establish for each class the length of the probationary period but also provides that the probationary period that shall be served upon appointment shall be six months unless the board establishes a longer period of not more than one year. (GC § 19170)

This bill:

1) Makes legislative findings and declarations, as specified.

2) Establishes the Department of Industrial Relations Apprenticeship Pilot Program within the Government Code.

3) Defines the following terms:

   a) "Apprenticeship program" or "program" means the apprenticeship pilot program or programs established pursuant to this bill.

   b) "Constitutional merit principle" means the merit principle contained in subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article VII of the California Constitution.

   c) "Department" means the Department of Industrial Relations.

4) Requires DIR and CalHR on or before January 1, 2029, to partner with the bargaining units representing DIR employees to design and develop an apprenticeship program that addresses the DIR's staffing challenges for filling positions in civil service classifications.

5) Requires the apprenticeship program's design, development, and administration to meet the following requirements:

   a) Use the meet and confer process, collective bargaining, and joint apprenticeship committees in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph C. Dills Act, the Shelley-Maloney Apprenticeship Labor Standards Act of 1939, and provisions of the Labor Code governing apprenticeship.

   b) Be consistent with the constitutional merit principle, including, but not limited to, both of the following:
      i) Selection for participation in an apprenticeship, which shall be in accordance with court interpretations of the constitutional merit principle.
      ii) Completion of an apprenticeship under the program, which shall be merit-based in accordance with court interpretation of the constitutional merit principle.

   c) Only be implemented subject to an agreement between DIR and its employees' unions despite Government Code provisions that would otherwise permit DIR to impose its version of the program as its Last Best Final Offer.

6) Grants a joint apprenticeship committee operating under this bill's provisions all powers afforded to it by the Labor Code and the regulations pertaining to joint apprenticeship committees arising from the Labor Code notwithstanding any other law or regulation.

7) Permits the apprenticeship program candidates to include incumbent state employees and prospective state employees not yet employed in the civil service consistent with the bill's selection requirements regarding compliance with the merit principle.

8) Requires the apprenticeship program to do the following:

   a) Determine apprenticeship program classification pay scales through the collective bargaining process.

b) Provide for the accrual by participants of state service for purposes of seniority credit pursuant to applicable bargaining agreements and of service credit for retirement benefits pursuant to the Public Employees' Retirement Law for time employed in a civil service apprenticeship classification.

c) Consider participants who successfully complete an apprenticeship program as qualified and eligible for appointment to the journey classification by way of an apprentice transfer.

9) Declares that the apprenticeship program is intended to augment state capacity and improve recruitment and retention efforts for hard-to-fill job classifications and shall not displace incumbent workers employed in state service.

10) Prohibits anyone from construing the bill's provisions as limiting SPB's jurisdiction or authority with respect to the powers and authorities granted to it under the California Constitution.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 75 (Smallwood-Cuevas, 2025) would have required the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in partnership with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and recognized building and construction trades councils to establish the Pre-apprenticeship Pathways to Employment Pilot Program to provide incarcerated individuals with access to pre-apprenticeship training aligned with state-registered apprenticeships in the building and construction trades, no later than January 1, 2028. Governor Newsom vetoed the bill stating in part, "I encourage the Legislature to revisit this issue as part of next year's budget process, so that targeted investments in CDCR's rehabilitative programming can be considered in the context of ongoing work to assist the incarcerated population with reentry into the community."

AB 291 (Gipson, 2025) would have established the Credentialed Educator Apprenticeships Act to require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) to disseminate, approve, and monitor credentialed educator apprenticeship programs in California. The bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 694 (Gipson, 2024) would have authorized the establishment of a Teacher Residency Apprenticeship Program to address shortages in the educator workforce,

expand the pipeline into the teaching profession, and grow a diverse, local pathway into teaching. The bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) "One-time General Fund costs of $950,000 and $900,000 ongoing annually for DIR to hire the additional staff necessary to implement and oversee expanded apprenticeship classifications.

2) One-time General Fund costs of $173,000 and $166,000 ongoing annually for CalHR to hire one additional staff member to oversee creation and monitoring of the new apprenticeship classification.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Asian Pacific Environmental Network
California Attorneys Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment
California Chamber of Commerce
California Farmworker Coalition
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Nurses Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
California Association of Professional Scientists, UAW Local 1115
CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals
ILWU Local 26
Inland Empire Labor Council
National Council on Occupational Safety and Health
Professional Engineers in California Government
Service Employees International Union, California
Service Employees International Union, Local 1000
Smart - Transportation Division
Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
Sunflower Alliance
United Steelworkers District 12
United Steelworkers Local 675
Worksafe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to a coalition of worker advocacy organizations and labor unions, including the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and the United Steelworkers:

"California's system of labor law enforcement is foundational to protecting workers' wages, health, and safety, and to ensuring a level playing field for responsible employers. Yet, as recognized in SB 1227, persistent staffing shortages-exceeding 25 percent vacancy rates in recent years-have significantly undermined DIR's ability to fulfill its mission.

The crisis at the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) underscores the urgency of action. As of November 1, 2025, 100 field inspector positions remain vacant–a 33 percent vacancy rate–and nine district offices report vacancy rates of 50 percent or higher. California has just one field inspector for every 99,000 workers, far fewer than peer states. These shortages delay enforcement: investigations into workplace complaints and accidents can take weeks or even months to initiate, leaving workers exposed to unsafe conditions. The consequences are clear–most complaints are handled through "letter investigations" rather than on-site inspections, citations in high-hazard industries are declining, and deterrence of unsafe practices is weakening.

The staffing crisis extends across DIR's enforcement agencies. At the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), chronic understaffing has produced a backlog of tens of thousands of wage claims, with workers often waiting two years or longer for resolution. DLSE does not have adequate staff to process its rapidly growing caseload and needs hundreds of additional positions to address both existing backlogs and new claims. High vacancy rates across field offices, combined with low salaries and inefficient hiring processes, continue to hinder recruitment and retention. As a result, wage theft too often goes unremedied, weakening enforcement of core labor standards and denying workers timely justice.

SB 1227 offers a forward-looking, proven solution by leveraging registered apprenticeship to build a strong, qualified pipeline into these essential enforcement roles. Apprenticeship is a time-tested, skills-based training model that combines hands-on, on-the-job learning with structured instruction. It allows workers to progressively demonstrate competency through real world application–an approach that aligns squarely with California's merit based civil service system."

Prepared by: Glenn Miles / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/24/26 16:41:33

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1235
Author: Rubio (D), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

PRIOR SENATE VOTE NOT RELEVANT

NOTE: On August 11, 2026, the Senate Governmental Organization Committee held an informational hearing on the tribal-state gaming compact between the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, and amendments to the tribal-state gaming compact between the State of California and the Pechanga Band of Indians, and amendments to the tribal state gaming compact between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Tribal gaming: compact ratification

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill ratifies the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the State of California and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. This bill also ratifies two separate amendments to the tribal-state gaming compacts entered into between the State of California and the Pechanga Band of Indians, and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California

Assembly Amendments delete the contents of this bill and instead ratify the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the State of California and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and two separate amendments to the tribal-state gaming compacts between the State of California and the Pechanga Band of Indians, and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), for the negotiation and conclusion of compacts between federally recognized Indian tribes and the State for the purpose of conducting Class III gaming activities on Indian lands within a State as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments.

2) Authorizes expressly a number of tribal-state gaming compacts between the State of California and specified Indian tribes.

3) Authorizes the conduct of Class III gaming activities to the extent such activities are permitted by state law, a gaming compact has been concluded by a federally recognized tribe and the State, and the compact has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

4) Limits the operation of Class III gaming activities to Indian lands acquired on or before October 17, 1988. Provides, for certain exceptions to conduct gaming activities on Indian lands acquired after October 17, 1988.

5) Defines "Indian lands" to mean all lands within the limits of any Indian reservation, and any lands title to which is either held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe, or individual, or held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restriction by the U.S. against alienation and over which an Indian tribe exercises governmental power.

6) Requires the State to negotiate to conclude a compact in good faith with an Indian tribe having jurisdiction over the Indian lands upon which the Class III gaming activity is to be conducted. Provides the U.S. district courts with jurisdiction over any cause of action initiated by a tribal government alleging that the State failed to negotiate in good faith to conclude a compact. Prescribes the remedy, mediation supervised by the courts, if it is found that the State failed to negotiate in good faith to conclude a compact.

7) Authorizes the Governor, under the California Constitution, to negotiate and conclude compacts, subject to ratification by the Legislature.

This bill:

1) Ratifies the tribal-state gaming compact between the State of California and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, execute on July 20, 2026.

2) Ratifies two separate amendments to the tribal-state gaming compacts entered into between the State of California and the Pechanga Band of India, and the Picayune Rancheria of Chuckchansi Indians of California

3) Provides that, in deference to tribal sovereignty, certain actions are not deemed projects for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and, stipulate, except as expressly provided, that none of the provisions shall be construed to exempt a city, county, or city and county, or the Department of Transportation from CEQA requirements.

4) Contains an urgency clause.

Background

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Compact. The Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe was executed on July 20, 2026. The Compact authorizes the Tribe to operate a maximum of 1,200 slot machines at no more than two gaming facilities located on eligible Indian lands held in trust for the Tribe. The Tribe has agreed to pay the State its pro rata share of costs the State incurs for the performance of its duties under the Compact. The Compact does not require the Tribe to pay into the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF) or the Tribal Nation Grant Fund (TNGF).

If the Tribe operates 350 slot machines the Compact requires the Tribe to pay 0.5% of Net Win to an Impact Mitigation Fund and distribute those funds to non-tribal law enforcement, emergency services, and service agencies with demonstrated impacts from the gaming facilities, as specified.

Certain terms of the Compact related to licensing, regulatory, patron protection, and public health provisions are substantially the same as recent compacts. Specifically, the Compact includes a Tribal Labor Relations Ordinance (TLRO), which provides that gaming may commence only after the Tribe has adopted a TLRO that allows for a secret ballot election and union neutrality.

The Compact's preamble notes that the Tribe and the State have concluded that this compact protects the interests of the Tribe and its members, the surrounding community, and the California public, and will promote and secure long-term stability, mutual respect, and mutual benefit.

The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe is a federally recognized tribe located along the Colorado River in the vicinity of Needles, California. The Tribe's reservation covers nearly 42,000 acres in the tri-state area of Arizona, California, and Nevada. The Tribe currently operates the Avi Resort and Casino in Laughing, Nevada, and the Spirit Mountain Casino in Arizona. While the Tribe entered into a tribal-state

gaming compact with the State of California in 2004 which authorized the Tribe to operate up to 1,500 slot machines, the Tribe does not operate a casino in California.

First Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Pechanga Band of Indians. The First Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the State of California and Pechanga Band of Indians was executed on August 05, 2026. The Amended Compact amends an existing 2016 compact, to avoid potential litigation after the Ninth Circuit's decision in Chicken Ranch (See below). The Amended Compact allows the Tribe to operate an additional 1,000 machines. The Amended Compact also includes an approximate 20-year extension in exchange for the Tribe agreeing not to challenge the revenue terms during the life of the compact.

The Tribe's 2016 Compact requires the Tribe to pay $21 million to "Local Community Credit Fund (Fund)" which was established to provide funding to local jurisdictions for such things as improved fire, law enforcement, public transit, education, tourism, or other services. Rather than payments into the California Native American Education and Scholarship Fund, the Amended Compact requires the Tribe to pay an additional $3 million into the Fund beginning on January 1, 2027. Every year thereafter, the Tribe is required to pay an additional $2 million per year until reaching $32 million per year. The Amended Compact provides that the Tribe, in its sole discretion, can decrease the annual amount payable into the Fund, provided that the annual amount shall never be reduced by $21 million. The Amended Compact makes it clear that the Tribe "makes this decision in the exercise of its sovereignty and in furtherance of its longstanding commitment to the beneficial projects and purposed served by the Fund."

In 2016, the Tribe entered into a new tribal-state compact [ratified by AB 2358 (Gonzalez), Chapter 285, Statutes of 2016] that authorized the Tribe to operate up to 5,500 slot machines at no more than two gaming facilities located on those Indian lands held in trust for the Tribe. Under the terms of the 2016 Compact, the Tribe has agreed to pay into the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) its pro rata share of costs the State incurs for the performance of its duties.

The Tribe currently operates the Pechanga Resort and Casino, which was first opened in 2002 and currently employes approximately 5,000 employees. According to the Tribe's website, the Pechanga Resort and Casino has one of the largest casino floors in the country with 200,000 square feet of gaming space that

features, 5,500 slot machines, 152 table games, a High Limit Salon and private rooms.

First Amendment to the Tribal-State Compact Between the State of California and the Picayune Rancheria of Chuckchansi Indians of California. On June 11, 2026, the State of California agreed to a one-year extension with the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California which is still operating under their original 1999 compact, to allow the Tribe to operate under the terms of their 1999 compact until December 31, 2027.

The State of California in 1999 and 2000 entered into over 60 tribal-state gaming compacts with tribes in California pursuant to the IGRA. These compacts are collectively referred to as the 1999 Compacts. The 1999 Compacts were for an initial 20-year term, with a termination date of December 31, 2020. However, the 1999 Compacts included an automatic 18-month extension to June 30, 2022. Four years ago, the State of California agreed to an additional 18-month compact extension with approximately 26 tribes that allowed them to operate under the terms of their 1999 compact until December 31, 2023. Three years ago, the State of California agreed once again to a one-year compact extension with 22 tribes who are still operating under their original 1999 compacts to allow them to operate under the terms of their 1999 compacts until December 31, 2024. Two years ago, the State of California once again agreed to a one-year compact extension with three tribes, including the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California, which allowed these tribes to operate under the terms of their 1999 compacts until December 31, 2025. Last year, the State once again agreed to a one-year extension with the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California, which allowed the tribe to continue to operate under the terms of their 1999 compact until December 31. 2026. A majority of the tribes with 1999 Compacts now have new compacts, but there are a handful of tribes that are still operating under the 1999 Compacts.

The 1999 Compacts allow, but do not require, the State and a tribe to amend the term of the Tribe's 1999 Compact by mutual and written agreement. To be effective, an amendment solely to extend the term of a 1999 Compact requires ratification by the California Legislature, but it does not require approval by the Secretary pursuant to 25 Code of Federal Regulations section 293.5.
The amendment to extend the 1999 Compacts until December 31, 2027, would not preclude the State and the 1999 Compact tribes from agreeing to further extensions should both agree it is appropriate.

The Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California are a federally recognized Indian tribe established by executive order in 1988 by the United States Government. The Picayune Rancheria, founded in 1912 and located in Coarsegold, California, covers 160 acres in Madera County and serves as the tribal land.

Today the Tribe operates the Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino in Coarsegold, California. According to the casino's internet website, patrons can immerse themselves "in the dynamic atmosphere of our Firehouse Lounge and directly in front of California Market Buffet, where high-energy gaming awaits in a smoke-free haven." The casino boasts a 73,000 square-foot gaming floor and features 2,000 slot machines as well as a selection of 40 table games. Additionally, the facilities include 20 electric vehicle charging stations on the first and fourth floors of the parking garage.

Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In 1988, Congress enacted IGRA to provide a statutory basis for the operation and regulation of gaming on Indian lands. IGRA provides that an Indian tribe may conduct gaming activity on Indian lands if the activity "is not specifically prohibited by federal law and is conducted within a State which does not prohibit such gaming activity."

IGRA distinguishes between three classes of gaming (Class I, Class II, and Class III) and provides for different forms of regulation for each class. Class I gaming includes "social games" for minor prizes or "traditional forms of Indian gaming." Class II gaming is defined to include bingo and card games that are explicitly authorized by the laws of the state, or that are not explicitly prohibited by the laws of the state and are played at any location in the State, so long as the card games are played in conformity with those laws and regulations. Class III gaming includes such things as slot machines, casino games, and banked card games such as black jack and baccarat. Class III gaming may only be conducted under terms of a compact negotiated between an Indian tribe and a State.

IGRA was enacted against a legal background in which Indian tribes and individuals generally are exempt from state taxation within their own territory. IGRA provides that with the exception of assessments permitted under the statute, to defray the State's costs of regulating gaming activity, IGRA shall not be interpreted as conferring upon a State authority to impose any tax, fee, charge, or other assessment upon an Indian tribe to engage in Class III activity. Nor may a State refuse to enter into negotiations based on the lack of authority to impose such a tax, fee, charge, or other assessment.

When a tribe requests negotiations for a Class III compact, IGRA requires the State to negotiate with the Indian tribe in good faith. IGRA provides a comprehensive process to prevent an impasse in compact negotiations, which is triggered when a tribe files suit alleging that the State has refused to negotiate or has failed to negotiate in good faith.

Before 2000, the California Constitution prohibited Class III gaming. In 2000, California voters approved Proposition 1A, which had been proposed by the Governor and passed by the Legislature. Proposition 1A amended the California Constitution to permit the State to negotiate compacts with federally recognized Indian tribes for certain Class III gaming activities. Because non-Indian parties were still forbidden from operating gaming facilities, Proposition 1A granted Indian tribes a "constitutionally protected monopoly on most types of Class III games in California."

Chicken Ranch Rancheria Decisions. In 2021, the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, along with four other tribes—the Blue Lake Rancheria, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, and Robinson Rancheria—filed suit against the State of California and Governor Gavin Newsom. The tribes alleged that the state violated IGRA by failing to negotiate new Class III gaming compacts in good faith.

According to the complaint, California insisted on compact terms covering family law, environmental regulation, and tort liability—subjects that the tribes argued were outside IGRA's limited scope, which allows negotiation only on matters directly related to the operation of gaming activities. In July 2022, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's finding that California's demands exceeded IGRA's bounds and therefore constituted bad-faith negotiations. The court ordered the parties to move forward under IGRA's remedial process. Under that process, if the parties are ultimately not able to agree on a compact, a mediator reviews each side's "last best offer" and selects the proposal that best aligns with federal law, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs) issues Secretarial Procedures regulating the tribe's gaming operation without state involvement.

This outcome was viewed by Indian tribes as a significant affirmation of tribal sovereignty and a rejection of state overreach in tribal gaming regulation. The Governor's office believes the terms of this Compact are consistent with this court decision

Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF). Existing law creates in the State Treasury the RSTF for the receipt and deposit of moneys derived from gaming device license fees that are paid into the RSTF pursuant to the terms of specified tribal-state gaming compacts for the purpose of making distributions to non-compacted California tribes (e.g., federally-recognized non-gaming tribes and tribes that operate casinos with fewer than 350 slot machines).

Revenue in the RSTF is available to the California Gambling Control Commission, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for making distributions of $1.1 million annually to non-compact tribes. The RSTF was created as part of the 1999 compacts, which, in conjunction with the passage of Proposition 1A, created gaming compacts with approximately 60 California tribes. Non-compact tribes are considered third-party beneficiaries of the 1999 compacts.

Tribal Nation Grant Fund. This particular fund was created to complement the RSTF and provides for the distribution of funds to non-gaming tribes, upon application of such tribes for purposes related to effective self-governance, self-determined community, and economic development. Payments from this fund are intended to be made to non-gaming tribes on a "need" basis, upon application.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/26/26 15:32:19

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1238
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 5/11/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 36-2, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Dahle, Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Common interest developments: management

SOURCE: California Association of Realtors

DIGEST: This bill 1) provides that a duty of care for any managing agent, including its employees, that facilitates activities under the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act (the Act) is owed to the homeowners' association (HOA) and its members; 2) requires disclosure of specified information related to exterior elevated elements (EEEs) to a prospective purchaser of a separate interest in the common interest development (CID); and 3) makes other changes to the Act related to financial and capital planning documents.

Assembly Amendments add a copy of the master insurance policy for an HOA to the list of required disclosures prior to the sale of a separate interest in an HOA, recast provisions of the bill to clarify that EEEs identified in the nine-year EEE inspection report are considered “major components” for the purposes of the three-year reserve study, and addresses chaptering conflicts with AB 739 (Jackson), and AB 2050 (Laird).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes, within the Davis-Stirling CID Act, rules and regulations governing the operation of CIDs and the respective rights and duties of a HOA and its members. Requires the governing documents of a CID, and any amendments to the governing documents, to be adopted through HOA elections in accordance with specified procedures.

2) Establishes, within the Davis-Stirling CID Act, rules and regulations governing the operation of CIDs and the respective rights and duties of a HOA and its members. Requires the governing documents of a CID, and any amendments to the governing documents, to be adopted through HOA elections in accordance with specified procedures.

3) Requires the HOA board of a CID with buildings containing three or more multifamily units to cause a reasonably competent and diligent visual inspection to be conducted of EEEs for which the HOA has maintenance or repair responsibility, as specified.

4) Requires the inspection to determine whether the EEEs are in a generally safe condition and performing in accordance with applicable standards.

5) Requires the first inspection to be completed by January 1, 2025, and every nine years thereafter in coordination with the HOA reserve study inspection pursuant to existing law.

6) Requires the owner of a separate interest (housing unit) in a CID to provide the following documents to a prospective buyer prior, to transfer of title or the execution of a real property sales contract, as specified:

   a) A copy of all governing documents for the HOA, or a written statement that the HOA is not incorporated, as specified.
   b) If applicable, a statement that a restriction in the governing documents limiting the occupancy, residency, or use of a unit on the basis of age is only enforceable as specified.
   c) A copy of the most recent HOA annual budget report and policy statements, as specified.
   d) A written statement regarding the amount of the HOA's current regular and special assessments and fees, any unpaid assessments on the unit, and any unpaid fines or penalties on the unit, as specified.
   e) A copy or summary of any notice previously sent to the seller setting forth any alleged violation of the governing documents that is unresolved, as specified.
   f) A copy of the initial list of defects provided to each HOA member, unless the HOA and the builder subsequently enter into a settlement agreement or otherwise resolve the matter, as specified.
   g) A copy of the latest information on construction defect litigation affecting the HOA, as specified.
   h) Any change in the HOA's current regular and special assessments and fees approved by the board that have not yet become due and payable.
   i) If applicable, a statement describing any prohibition on renting or leasing any individual units in the CID.
   j) If requested by the buyer, a copy of the minutes of HOA board meetings conducted over the previous 12 months, as specified.
   k) A copy of the most recent EEE inspection conducted of the CID.

7) Specifies the format and contents for the disclosure form given to the prospective buyer of a unit in a CID.

This bill:

1) Provides that any managing agent, including its employees, that facilitates specified management activities under the Act, or other activities under the Act that are authorized by the HOA, owes a duty of care that is prudent and provides the highest good faith effort to the HOA and its members.

2) Requires an owner of a separate interest to provide a copy of the master insurance policy for the HOA that covers the property, general liability,

earthquake, flood, and fidelity coverage upon request of the property owner or prospective purchaser.

3) Requires an owner of a separate interest to provide the following information to a prospective purchaser of the separate interest, if requested by the prospective purchaser:

   a) The location on the first page of the nine-year exterior elevated elements (EEEs) inspection report where the following information may be found:

      i) The number of EEEs, and the number of units identified as impacted by the EEEs inspected and posing an immediate threat to the safety of the occupants;
      ii) The number of EEEs recommended to be included in the next reasonably competent and diligent visual inspection of major components or recommended for reinspection within the next three years; and,
      iii) The number of EEEs recommended for reinspection in the next nine-year EEE inspection.

   b) Any EEE identified in the nine-year EEE inspection report as needing repairs that exceed $10,000.

4) Requires an owner of a separate interest to provide to a prospective purchaser of the separate interest the following information indicating whether:

   a) The covenants, restrictions, and conditions require an owner of a separate interest, with an exclusive right to use an EEE, to individually maintain that EEE;
   b) The HOA's reserve study includes a minimum annual budgeted replacement reserve allocation of 10% for repairs of the exterior structures; and
   c) The HOA's reserve study has been updated to include identified repairs contained within the nine-year EEE inspection report.

5) Expands the definition of "association records" to include three-year reserve studies.

6) Prohibits an HOA from expending funds designated as reserve funds for other litigation or legal services, except for litigation involving the repair, restoration, replacement, or maintenance of major components for which the HOA is responsible.

7) Adds EEEs identified in the nine-year EEE inspection report to the list of major components included in the three-year reserve study report.

8) Adds the following repair urgency categories to the first page of the nine-year EEE inspection report for the total number of inspected EEEs identified in the report and the number of units impacted:

   a) EEEs recommended to be included in the next reasonably competent and diligent visual inspection conducted pursuant to the three-year reserve study or recommended for reinspection within the next three years;
   b) EEEs recommended for reinspection in the next nine-year EEE inspection report; and
   c) EEEs demonstrating no need for repair at the time of inspection.

9) Requires an HOA's reserve funding plan to include the costs necessary to account for the repairs identified in the nine-year EEE inspection report.

10) Requires the summary of the HOA's reserves to include repairs identified in the nine-year EEE inspection report.

11) Incorporates nonsubstantive chaptering amendments.

Background

CIDs and HOAs. CIDs are a type of housing with separate ownership of housing units that also share common areas and amenities. There are a variety of different types of CIDs, including condominium complexes, planned unit developments, and resident-owned mobile home parks. In recent years CIDs have represented a growing share of California's housing stock. Data from 2019 indicates that there are an estimated 54,065 CIDs in the state that are made up of 5 million housing units, or about 35% of the state's total housing stock.

CIDs are regulated under the Davis-Stirling Act as well as the governing documents of the HOA, including the bylaws, declaration, and operating rules. CIDs can also have CC&Rs that are filed with the county and recorded at the time they are established. Owners in a CID are contractually obligated to abide by the CC&Rs and the governing documents of a CID, which specify rules such as parking policies, allowable modifications to homes, and rental restrictions. Additionally, HOAs are governed by a board of directors elected by the membership in elections that closely resemble California's vote-by-mail process. In addition, many HOAs use a managing agent to assist with finances, logistics, and other services provided to homeowners.

HOA boards have a number of duties and powers. The board determines the annual assessments that members must pay to cover communal expenses, including maintenance obligations. The board enforces the community rules and can propose as well as make changes to those rules. If members do not pay their assessments in full or on time, or if members violate the community rules, the board has the power to fine the members and, if necessary, the power to foreclose upon the offending member's property.

Comments

Author statement. "SB 1238 will protect homeowners who reside in communities with a HOA by requiring additional disclosures to the homeowner and ensuring HOAs act in the homeowners' best interest by requiring a fiduciary duty be provided by HOA managers to the HOA board and the HOA members. Under current law HOA managers have no licensing requirements or duties to the homeowner. This bill will establish a minimum standard by requiring HOA managers to provide a fiduciary duty to the homeowner while also prohibiting HOAs from using HOA reserve funds to sue homeowners seeking to hold boards and managers accountable for property maintenance required under CA law."

Balcony safety. In 2015, a wooden balcony collapsed at the Library Gardens apartment complex in the City of Berkeley, near the University of California, Berkeley campus. The balcony collapse killed six young adults and injured seven others. Investigations later revealed that the balcony had decayed wooden joists caused by wood dry rot left untreated due to poor building maintenance.

Ultimately, the Contractor's State License Board revoked the license of Segue Construction, Inc., the general contractor responsible for building the apartment complex where the collapse occurred, as it was alleged that the contractor company "willfully departed from or disregarded building plans or specifications, and willfully departed from accepted trade standards for good and workmanlike construction."

As a result of that collapse, the Legislature passed SB 465 (Hill, Chapter 372, Statutes of 2016), which, in addition to requiring additional oversight for contractors, also required the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) to establish a working group to study the failure of EEEs. The bill directed the CBSC to submit a report to the Legislature containing findings and possible recommendations for statutory or other changes to the California Building Standards Code. In 2017, the CBSC approved emergency regulations to accelerate the adoption of higher construction standards.

The following year, SB 721 (Hill, Chapter 445, Statutes of 2018) established a requirement to perform regular inspections of EEEs of certain multi-unit residential buildings. The bill required building owners to have those elements and other load-bearing components and waterproofing elements inspected at least every six years by certain licensed persons, to determine that the EEEs and their associated waterproofing elements are in a generally safe condition, adequate working order, and free from any hazardous conditions. It also required any identified repairs be made within a designated timeframe and provided penalties for building owners who do not complete the required repairs.

Notably, SB 721 specifically excluded CIDs from its provisions. In 2019, SB 326 (Hill, Chapter 207, Statutes of 2019) extended similar inspection requirements to CIDs. SB 326 requires HOA boards to arrange an inspection every nine years, as specified, of the CID's balconies over which the HOA has maintenance or repair responsibility. The inspector must provide a report for the board, which must be incorporated into the HOA's reserve study.

The deadline for the initial inspection under both SB 721 and SB 326 was January 1, 2025. However, recent legislation (AB 2579, Chapter 835, 2024) generally extended this deadline to January 1, 2026—but did not explicitly extend the deadline for CIDs.

Ensuring accountability for inspections. The original EEE inspection legislation included a mechanism for follow-up from any inspection that results in a finding that repairs are needed. If an inspector advises that the condition of an EEE poses an immediate threat to the safety of the occupants, the inspector must provide a copy of the inspection report to the local code enforcement agency and the building owner must immediately undertake preventive measures. For less urgent repairs, the law requires building owners to apply for a permit to make the repairs within 120 days and imposes fines on building owners who do not commence repairs in a timely fashion.

However, the legislation imposing EEE inspection requirements on CIDs did not include a follow-up mechanism and does not impose any consequences if an HOA does not take action in response to an inspection report that finds an EEE in need of repair. Instead, the law deems EEE inspections to be part of an HOA's ongoing maintenance responsibility.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee: The Department of Real Estate (DRE) estimates minor one-time costs, likely in the tens of thousands of

dollars, to conduct stakeholder and consumer education and to conduct training for Subdivisions Division staff. DRE would also incur one-time contract costs of approximately $50,000 to update Subdivision forms, the Operating Costs Manual, and Reserve Study Guidelines related to HOA budgets. (Real Estate Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/2026)

California Association of Realtors (Source)
Center for Homeowner Association Law

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/2026)

Community Associations Institute of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Association of Realtors, the sponsor of the bill, argues that this bill creates accountability for HOA managers, improves disclosure requirements and strengthens access to essential HOA documents.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Community Associations Institute of California is opposed to the bill. They argue that extending the duty of care that HOA managers owe to the association, to individual members of the association, could complicate a manager's ability to fulfill their contractual obligations to its client (the association) where it already has a duty of care.

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8/26/26 14:22:15

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1240
Author: McNerney (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 31-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Jones, Niello, Padilla, Stern, Strickland

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Office of Nonprofit Empowerment

SOURCE: California Association of Nonprofits

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Office of Nonprofit Empowerment (ONE), upon appropriation by the Legislature, to coordinate state-level policies and strategies that support California's nonprofit organizations and establishes the Nonprofit Empowerment Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out the purposes of the office, as specified.

Assembly Amendments place ONE within the Government Operations Agency (GovOps), remove the authorization that ONE be able to update the State Administrative Manual and the State Contracting Manual, and establish – upon appropriation by the Legislature – the Nonprofit Empowerment Fund in the State Treasury to carry out the purposes of this bill, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes the Department of General Services (DGS) to provide centralized services, including, but not limited to, planning, acquisition, construction, and maintenance of state buildings and property, purchasing, printing, architectural services, administrative hearings, and accounting services.

This bill:

1) Establishes, upon appropriation of the Legislature, ONE with the primary responsibility of overseeing and coordinating state-level policies and strategies that support California's nonprofit organizations.

2) Establishes the Director of ONE, appointed by, and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as specified, and requires the Director to be responsible for managing the affairs of the office and performing all duties, exercising all powers and jurisdiction, and assuming and discharging all responsibilities to carry out the purposes of this bill, as specified.

3) Specifies the duties and functions of ONE, as specified.

4) Requires the Director to hire staff to assist in the fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities of ONE.

5) Authorizes ONE, subject to available resources and consistent with applicable laws and regulations, contract and consult with nonprofit organizations, external entities, and vendors to develop training, curricula, and other resources as determined by the office.

6) Requires ONE, on or before July 1, 2028, to post on its internet website opportunities to improve the ways nonprofits and the state partner together while maintaining accountability to Californians and public resources. After the initial posting, the office shall review and update the information on the internet website regularly to ensure the contents remain current and reflective of evolving best practices. This internet website shall include, but not be limited

to, policy recommendations, and potential statutory and regulatory changes, as specified.

7) Establishes the Nonprofit Empowerment Fund in the State Treasury and makes moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out the purposes of the bill, as specified.

8) Authorizes ONE, or GovOps on behalf of ONE, to collect and receive any gifts, bequests, grants, or donations from private, foundation, or nonstate sources to carry out the purposes of this bill in support of ONE, as specified.

9) Includes a sunset date for ONE of January 1, 2037, and of that date is repealed.

10) Includes relevant definitions and related Legislative findings and declarations, as specified.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "California nonprofits play a vital role in our economy, providing essential services and programs in education, health care, social services, the arts, the environment, public safety, and more. But with significant cuts coming from the federal government, nonprofits are fighting for their survival. SB 1240 will provide a much-needed tool to ensure that nonprofit organizations thrive in our State."

California Department of General Services. DGS serves as the business manager for the State, with nearly 4,500 employees and a budget of $1.3 billion. DGS serves the public by providing a variety of services to state agencies through procurement and acquisition solutions; real estate management and design; environmentally friendly transportation; professional printing, design and web services; administrative hearings; legal services; building standards; oversight of structural safety, fire/life safety and accessibility for the design and construction of K-12 public schools and community colleges; funding for school construction; and disability access.

California Government Operations Agency. According to the GovOps' internet website, the agency leads implementation of strategic initiatives focused on accelerating innovation in state operations. GovOps is one of 11 cabinet-level agencies that report to the Governor. The agency oversees and supports the work of 14 departments, boards, and offices with more than 23,000 employees.

California's Nonprofit Organizations. According to California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), an association of nonprofits in the state, one in every 14 California jobs is at a nonprofit, and nonprofits generate 15% of California's Gross State Product. Further, CalNonprofits notes that California's state, county, and city governments rely heavily on nonprofits to deliver services.

California is home to a wide range of nonprofit organizations that serve various community needs. Many of these organizations focus on social services, healthcare, housing, and disaster relief – and play a vital role in providing immediate and long-term assistance during emergencies. Wildfires and other emergencies (such as earthquakes or floods) often trigger a rapid response from both local and national nonprofit organizations. In California, nonprofits adapt their operations quickly to meet the urgent needs of affected communities. Some of the roles they play include: immediate relief efforts; long-term recovery programs; volunteer coordination; and advocacy and policy work.

Shared Priorities, Strained Systems. In January of this year, the Little Hoover Commission (Commission) released a report titled "Shared Priorities, Strained Systems: Modernizing State Grants and Contracts with Nonprofits." The report notes that California relies on nonprofit organizations to deliver public services, ranging from healthcare to environmental protection programs with more than 109,000 nonprofits employing 1.7 million Californians. However, after the Commission surveyed the California Association of Nonprofits, participated in hearings, and conducted research, the commission found that the state's grant and contract administration has not kept up with the environment in which the state's nonprofits operate.

Specifically, the Commissions found "that cash flow instability is one of the most persistent strains on the state's nonprofit partners. Because state awards often rely on reimbursement rather than advance payment of grant funds, nonprofits must front operational costs before receiving their grant funding. Less-resourced organizations serving disadvantaged communities, which recent legislation has mandated state agencies to prioritize, are the least-equipped to carry these financial burdens." Among the 12 recommendations of the Commission in the report, is a recommendation that the Legislature establish a nonprofit liaison office within the Office of the Governor.

Office of Nonprofit Empowerment. This bill establishes ONE, within an unspecified entity, with the primary responsibility of overseeing and coordinating state policy in support of California's nonprofit organizations. This bill specifies various duties and functions of the office, including providing guidance, resources,

and technical assistance to nonprofits organizations on procurement and grantmaking laws, regulations, and best practices. This bill also requires ONE to develop and administer training and materials to state entities on advance payment and other strategies to reduce hurdles for nonprofit organizations to access state funding and implement state projects, as specified.

Additionally, this bill establishes the Nonprofit Empowerment Fund within the State Treasury to be made available to ONE, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out the purposes of the bill. This bill includes a sunset date of January 1, 2037, and as of that date will be repealed.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations analysis, "Ongoing cost pressures, likely in the low millions of dollars annually, to staff and operate ONE, including office space, equipment, travel and meeting resources, and external contracts (General Fund). The author requested state budget funding of $1.7 million in fiscal year 2026-27 and $1.66 million annually thereafter to support approximately six permanent positions (director, staff services manager, attorney, two program analysts, and executive assistant) and associated operating costs for ONE. The Budget Act of 2026 did not appropriate funds for this purpose."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Association of Nonprofits (source)
1 Click Consultants
24 Hour Oakland Parent Teacher Children Center INC.
24th St. Theatre
24th Street Theatre
24th Street Theatre Company
3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic
AAPI Equity Alliance
ABC INC
Abled
Abrazar, INC.
Access Central Coast
Advanced Manufacturing Institute San Diego (AMI-SD)
Advent Group Ministries
Adventure Risk Challenge
African American Network of Kern County, INC.
Agudath Israel of California
Almaden Valley Counseling Service

Alternative Technologies
Alternative Technologies Cooperative
America on Track
An Elderly Wish Foundation
Angels Gate Cultural Center
Aresis Ensemble (city Garage)
Asociacion De Emprendedor@s
Associates of Idyllwild Arts Foundation
Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
Association of Behavior Consultants INC
Association of California Community & Energy Services
Association of California Community and Energy Services
Association of California Symphony Orchestras
Basic
BBBS of Northern Sierra
Ben Tzedek Legal Services
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo County
Bike East Bay
Books by Rachel
Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach
Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast
Buen Vecino
Build Advisory
Build Advisory Corporation
Build Up Fitness
Caceren SF
Cactustocloud Institute
Cakecutter Institute
California 211 Providers Network (dba 211 Ca)
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Arts Advocates
California Association of Zoos & Aquariums
California Behavioral Health Association
California Community Action Partnership Association
California Ihss Consumer Alliance
California In-home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance
California Language Teachers' Association

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California Product Stewardship Council
California ReLeaf
California Society of Association Executives
California Urban Forests Council
CalPride
Cambodia Town
Cambodia Town INC.
Cameo Network
Camp Fire Inland Southern California
Canal Alliance
Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area
Casa Familiar
Celiac Disease Foundation
Center for Caregiver Advancement
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Nonprofit Leadership of the Sierra
Center of Vision Enhancement
Center Stage Theatrical Foundation
Centinela Youth Services
Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center
Chicas Mom, INC.
ChicoStart
Child Care Resource Center
Child Parent Institute
Children's Fund
Children's Institute
Common Good Community
Communify (formerly Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County)
Community Alliance With Family Farmers
Community Bridge Housing
Community Bridge Housing Corp
Community Environmental Council
Community Foundation of the Valleys
Community Health for Asian Americans
Community Media Access Collaborative
Community Media Center of Marin
Community Partners
Community Resource Project

Community Resource Project, INC.
Concerned Off-road Bicyclists Association
Confronting Domestic Violence
Connerly & Associates, INC.
Corazón Tlalli
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento County
Create Now
Created for Rose
Cycle Advisors
Delta Humane Society SPCA of
Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Disability Media Alliance
DIY Girls
Doggie Does Good, INC.
Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County
Doves of Big Bear Valley, INC.
Duc Learning Center
Earth Island Institute
Ecoarts of Lake County Dba Middletown Art Center
Ecologistics
Ecologists INC.
Education and Leadership Foundation
Education Francaise De Sacramento
Efficiency First California
Elkhorn Slough Foundation
Emdad
Emilio Nares Foundation
Energy Transition Collective
Eth-noh-tec
Executive Service Corps of Southern California
Fairlight Advisors
Familias Tomando Acción
Families in Transition of Santa Cruz County, INC.
Family Resource Center
Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County
Family Service Association
Farms to Grow, INC.
Fire Service Psychology Association
First Mother Farms
Fiscory

Food Literacy Center
Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
Foothill Family Shelter
Fossil Free California
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Friends of the Lost Coast
Full Circle Health Network
Ganas Community Organization
Genuinely Me
Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast
Girls on the Run Inland Empire
Giving 365
Good Seed Community Development Corporation
Goodwill Southern California
Grace Fisher Foundation
GreenInfo Network
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist of America, INC.
Hanaeleh
Harmony Barn 501c3 Non Profit
Healing Los Angeles Together INC
Healing Together
Healthy Valley Foundation
Healy Senior Center of Southern Humboldt
Heart of the Valley Services for Seniors, INC.
Help Is Hope
Helpgood
Helpline Youth Counseling, INC.
Hillel of San Diego
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley
HIV+ Aging Research Project
HIV+aging Research Project-palm Springs
Holden High School
Holocaust Museum LA
Homeschool Association of California
Honeybee Discovery Center
Human Agenda
Ican California Abilities Network
Iehp Foundation
Ikigai Sanctuary
Imaca

Indivisible CA Statestrong
Ink People
Inland Empire Community Collaborative
Inland Empire Health Plan Foundation
Instituto De Educacion Popular Del Sur De California (IDEPSCA)
Jack Mcgovern Coats' Disease Foundation
Jacl Pacific Southwest District
Janet S Cohen Consulting
JCC/federation of San Luis Obispo
JCRC Bay Area
JCRC Santa Barbara County
Jewish California
Jewish California (formerly JPAC)
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Democratic Club of Marin
Jewish Family Service LA
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jewish Silicon Valley
JFCS East Bay
JFCS Long Beach and Orange County
Jodi & Associate's LLC
Keeperz Corp
Kid City Hope Place
Kindling Communications
Kitty’s Wildlife Refuge & ResCue 501 (C)3
Koreatown Youth and Community Center
LA Jolla Playhouse
Laguna Food Pantry
Lake Links, INC
Lamps of Light Project
Latino Community Foundtion
League of California Community Foundations

League of Women Voters - Humboldt County
Legal Aid Association of California
Lifewell Learning Institute Los Angeles
Little Hoover Commission
Little Seeds Matter
Long Beach Gives
Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation
Los Angeles Urban Foundation
Maac
Making Hope Happen Foundation
Media Alliance
Mend-meet Each Need With Dignity
Mendo Food Network
Mendocino Private Industry Council, INC.
Mental Health America of California
Mental Health Hookup
Mexicayotl
Microenterprise Collaborative of Inland Southern California
Mid-city Can
Mockingbird Incubator
Mofundamentals (MOABC)
Moses House Ministries
Mothers' Helpers
Movement Strategy Center
Multi Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies
Multi-ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies
Music Changing Lives
Mynd Vibes, INC
Nami Solano County
National Council of Jewish Women -sf
Native Animal Rescue
Neighborworks Sacramento
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce
Nonprofit Finance Fund
North Coast Opportunities
Northern California Community Development Corporation
Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association
Novalex Foundation INC.
Oakland Public Education Fund
Oakland; City of

Oc Bred INC.
Operation Freedom Paws
Orange County United Way
Orangewood Foundation
Outreach Uganda
Pacific Arts Movement
Para Los Ninos
Para Los Niños
Parentz@work
Parkview Legacy Foundation
Partnerships
Passports for Ataxians Foundation
Pathpoint
Permission to Write
Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network
Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Popps Consulting
Project Go, INC.
Proteus INC.
Proteus, INC.
Providers Need Care
Public Health Advocates
Purpose Centered Coaching & Consulting
Qmunity
Quadruple Threats
Reach Out
Redondo Union High School Alumni Association
Redwood City Parks and Arts Foundation
Refugee Jumpstart Coaching
Restore the Delta
Rising Stars Business Academy
Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center
Riverside Development Organization (RDO)
RMC Charitable Foundation
Rock'n Our Disabilities
Rockin for the Arts
Rodeo Youth Mentoring Program
Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
Rsm Cares - Bell Tower Foundation

Rural Advancement Partners
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
Sacramento Fire Department and Community Foundation
Sacramento Lgbt Community Center
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera
Sacramento Splash
Sacred Life Recovery Services
Safe & Sound
San Benito County Arts Council
San Diego Automotive Museum
San Diego Humane Society
San Francisco Safehouse
San Jose Conservation Corps
San Marcos Community Foundation
Santa Barbara Zoo
Self-help Home Improvement Project
Senior Advocacy Network
Serene Wellness Solutions
Service Center for Independent Life
Serving People in Need
Sewa-aifw
Shasta Cascade Health Centers
Shine Bright Like a Diamond Youth and Young Adults Org
Shoes That Fit
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Dachshund Breeders Club of Los Angeles Co
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Sierra State Parks Foundation
Sierra Stem
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Simon Wiesenthal Center, INC.
Siskiyou Community Food Bank
Smokefree Air for Everyone
SNAP CATS
SNAP With Stepping Stones
Socal Water Babies
Solano Dignity and Care Foundation, INC
Sonoma Ecology Center
South Bay Children United
Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Collaborative

Southern Trinity Area Rescue
Sports and Social Change
Springwave Studios
Sst Productions
Ssta Aware Foundation
Starting Over INC.
Starting Over, INC.
Stay Arts
Stinson/bolinas Community Fund
Strengthunited
Susan Swinburne Consulting
Sustainable Claremont
Sustainable Tahoe
Switzer Learning Center
Tahoe Youth and Family Services
Teens 4 Teens Help
Temple of Isis - Isis Oasis Sanctuary
Ten Strands
The Aresis Ensemble INC. (city Garage)
The Black Arts Museum
The Body Positive
The Can Man
The Can Man Company
The Emily Shane Foundation
The Heart of Ida
The Home Team Santa Barbara County
The Homemore Project
The Living New Deal Project
The Nonprofit Partnership
The Oakland Public Education Fund
The San Diego Lgbt Community Center
The Society of St. Vincent De Paul of Contra Costa County
The Source Lgbt+ Center
The Stephan Center
The Village Family Services
The Watershed Research and Training Center
The Win Project
The Women's List
Therapy Dogs of Santa Barbara
Thewomenslist.org

Thrive Alliance
Tracy Community Connections Center
Transcanwork
Treepeople
Tri-county Respite Care Service
Tuleyome
Ubique Adult Day Healthcare INC.
Ultimate Restoration Unlimited
United Parents
United Way of Stanislaus County
USA Outrigger Racing Canoe Association
Valley Intercommunity Council
Vantage Point
Veras Open Arms INC.
Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay
Villages of San Mateo County
Visit Tri Valley
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Waking the Village
Watershed Research & Training Center
We Care Services for Children
Weave
Wildlife Madagascar
Women's Economic Ventures
Working Wardrobes for a New Start
Worksafe
Worksite Wellness LA
Ww Consulting for Good
Yolo County Children's Alliance
Yolo Farm to Fork
You Life Skills and Leadership Educational Foundation
Your Children's Trees
Youth Inspiration Nation INC
Youth Mentoring Connection
Youth Transforming Justice
Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture
Yüda Ayuda
Zimnotes

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of the bill, the California Association of Nonprofits write, in part, the "success of New York's Mayor's Office of Nonprofit Services (MONS) provides a verified blueprint for California's proposed [ONE], proving that a centralized hub can transform the nonprofit sector from a bureaucratic afterthought into a strategic priority. MONS operationalized systemic solutions that transformed New York's contract management: it slashed a staggering $11 billion contract backlog to under $3 billion, unlocked $4.2 billion in delayed, retroactive funds for 451 stalled providers, and eliminated 11 months of delays by cutting contract processing times by nearly 90%. Furthermore, MONS doubled advance payment standards to 50% and eliminated 13 tedious bureaucratic steps to deliver 100% upfront funding for smaller discretionary grants. These metrics demonstrate that a dedicated nonprofit office is not an added layer of bureaucracy, but a powerful efficiency engine that actively protects public funding and optimizes service delivery."

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/26/26 15:32:08

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1242
Author: Choi (R), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/28/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SENATE FLOOR: 36-1, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Wiener
NOES: Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla, Pérez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill permits an original petitioner to provide specified information regarding a respondent to the respondent's CARE team and court, and requires the CARE team to receive, review, document, and consider useful information, as specified.

Assembly Amendments specify the categories of information which an original petitioner may provide to a respondent's CARE team; require the CARE team to receive, review, and document information received from the original petitioner that is relevant to the respondent's CARE plan, as specified; and removes the

provision permitting an original petitioner to participate in the CARE proceedings absent a court determination that such participation would be detrimental to the respondent's treatment or wellbeing.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CARE Act. (Welfare (Welf.) & Institutions (Inst.) Code, div. 5, pt. 8, §§ 5970 et seq.)

2) Defines the following relevant terms:

   a) "CARE agreement" is a voluntary settlement agreement entered into by the parties, and includes the same elements as a CARE plan to support the respondent in accessing community-based services and supports.

   b) "CARE plan" is an individualized, appropriate range of community-based services and supports, which include clinically appropriate behavioral health care and stabilization medications, housing, and other supportive services, as appropriate.

   c) "CARE process" is the court and related proceedings to implement the CARE Act.

   d) "Department" is the DHCS.

   e) "Petitioner" is the entity who files a CARE Act petition with the court; if the petitioner is a person other than the director of a county behavioral health agency (CBHA), or their designee, the court shall substitute the director or their designee for the county in which the proceedings are filed as the petitioner at the first hearing.

   f) "Respondent" is the person who is subject to the petition for the CARE process. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5971.)

3) Establishes criteria for a person to qualify for the CARE process, including that the person is 18 years of age or older; the person is experiencing a serious mental disorder, as defined, and has a diagnosis in the disorder class of schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, or bipolar I disorder, as specified; the person is not clinically stabilized in ongoing voluntary treatment; and participation in a CARE plan or agreement would be the least restrictive

alternative necessary to ensure the person's recovery and stability. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5972.)

4) Provides that the following adult persons may file a petition to commence the CARE process, including:

   a) A person with whom the respondent resides.

   b) A spouse, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent, or an individual who stands in loco parentis to the respondent.

   c) Various persons who have provided care to the respondent within the previous 30 days, or the directors of programs where care was provided to the respondent.

   d) A first responder, as defined, who has repeated interactions with the respondent, as defined.

   e) The directors of specified public agencies and service providers, including a county behavioral health agency (CBHA).

   f) The judge of a tribal court located in California before which the respondent has appeared within the previous 30 days.

   g) The respondent. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5974.)

5) Requires the CARE court, upon receipt of a petition, to promptly review the petition to determine if the petitioner has made a prima facie showing that the respondent is, or may be, a person who meets the CARE criteria. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a)(1).)

6) Establishes, following a determination that the petition makes a prima facie case that the respondent is eligible for the CARE process, different procedures depending on whether the petitioner is the director of a CBHA or one of the other authorized persons, set forth in 7) and 8). (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a).)

7) Provides, pursuant to 6), if the original petitioner is the director of a CBHA, the court must set the matter for an initial appearance on the petition, appoint counsel for the respondent and, if the petition does not include specified information, instruct the CBHA to submit a written report with the requisite information within 14 court days. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a)(3)(A).)

8) Provides, pursuant to 6), if the original petitioner is someone other than the director of the CBHA:

   a) The court must order the CBHA to investigate and file a written report with the court regarding whether the respondent meets the CARE criteria, the outcome of efforts to involuntarily engage the respondent, and the respondent's ability to engage in services.

   b) After receiving the report, if the court determines that the evidence supports a prima facie case that the respondent is eligible for the CARE process and engagement with the county agency was not effective, the court must set an initial appearance on the petition within 14 days; appoint counsel for the respondent; and order the CBHA to provide notice of the initial appearance to the petitioner, the respondent, and the respondent's appointed counsel. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(a)(3)(B), (4), & (5).)

9) Requires the court, at the initial appearance hearing, to determine whether there is reason to believe that the facts of the petition are true; if the court makes such a finding, and the original petitioner was not the CBHA, the court must issue an order relieving the original petitioner and appointing the director of the CBHA or their designee as the successor petitioner. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(b)(6)(A).)

10) Provides that, when an original petitioner is a person described in 4)(a) or (b), above, they retain all of the following rights after being relieved as a petitioner under 9):

   a) The right to be present and make a statement at the initial hearing on the merits of the CARE petition.

   b) The right to receive ongoing notice of proceedings throughout the CARE proceedings, including notice of a continuance or dismissal, unless the court determines, upon its own motion or a motion of the respondent, that it would likely be detrimental to the respondent's treatment or wellbeing.

   c) The right to participate in the respondent's CARE proceedings to the extent the respondent consents. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5977(b)(6)(B).)

This bill:

1) Permits an original petitioner to provide to the respondent's CARE team, as allowed by applicable state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws, throughout the CARE proceedings, information about any of the following:

a) The respondent's condition.

b) The respondent's functioning.

c) The respondent's treatment history.

d) The respondent's housing status.

e) Safety concerns about the respondent.

f) The respondent's need for services and supports.

g) The respondent's engagement in services.

h) The respondent's compliance with a CARE agreement or CARE plan.

i) Other matters relevant to the respondent's care, recovery, stability, or implementation of the CARE process.

2) Requires the respondent's CARE team to receive, review, and document information received from the original pursuant to 1) that is relevant to the respondent's care, treatment, need for services and supports, housing stability, safety, engagement in services, or implementation of a CARE agreement or CARE plan.

3) Provides that the CARE team's receipt of information pursuant to 1) shall not require the respondent's consent.

4) Permits the court to consider information provided pursuant to 2) in evaluating the respondent's progress, engagement, changed circumstances, needs for services and supports, or compliance with a CARE agreement or CARE plan.

5) Provides that information submitted by an original respondent pursuant to 1) does not confer party status on the original petitioner and shall not create a right to direct treatment decisions, obtain discovery, access confidential records, receive protected health information subject to specified state and federal law, attend confidential proceedings, or otherwise participate in the CARE proceedings without the respondent's consent, except as expressly provided by law.

Comments

In 2022, the Legislature enacted the CARE Act. The CARE Act is intended to provide essential mental health and substance use disorder services to severely

mentally ill Californians—many of whom are homeless or incarcerated—while also preserving these individuals' self-determination to the greatest extent possible. The first counties implemented the CARE Act in October 2023; all counties in the state were required to begin accepting CARE petitions as of December 1, 2024, unless they received an implementation extension from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). As the CARE Act has been implemented across the state, stakeholders have figured out what works well and what needs improvement; according to the author and sponsor, one ongoing concern is that a family member who filed the original petition for a CARE respondent is not able to continue participating in the CARE proceedings without the respondent's consent, depriving the participants in the process of potentially helpful information about the respondent's history and condition.

This bill clarifies that an original petitioner can provide information to the CARE team, as allowed by applicable privacy laws, throughout the proceedings regarding the respondent. For example, the bill specifies that an original petitioner can provide information regarding the respondent's condition, functioning, treatment history, or housing status, among other things. The bill requires the CARE team to receive, review and document the information that is relevant to the respondent's care, treatment, need for services and supports, housing stability, safety, engagement in services, or implementation of a CARE agreement or CARE plan. The court may also consider the information considered by the CARE team in evaluating the respondent's engagement, changed circumstances, needs for services and supports, or compliance with a CARE agreement or CARE plan.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

1) Potential cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF), General Fund (GF)) of up to $600,000 to the courts to review and consider information submitted by original petitioners in CARE Act proceedings. The Judicial Council reports the impact reflects added judicial time for review of submitted information rather than additional hearing time. Because the courts are not funded on a workload basis, any increase in workload creates cost pressures on the TCTF. The 2025-26 Budget Act includes a $117.3 million GF backfill to the TCTF.

2) Estimated costs of $1.4 million to $2.9 million annually (GF) for county behavioral health agencies for time spent reviewing material submitted by original petitioners, integrating that material into court reports, and engaging with respondents regarding the submitted material. The California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) estimates counties would spend an

additional five to 10 hours per case at the outreach and engagement rate of $89 per hour established by the state, assuming 3,210 petitions filed by family members in 2027. The state reimburses counties for specified non-Medi-Cal billable CARE Act activities through a quarterly claiming process administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and CBHDA indicates the activities added by this bill fall within the approved activity types.

3) Potential costs of $2.4 million to $7.2 million annually (GF) for county behavioral health agencies to serve additional CARE Act participants, reflecting an anticipated decrease in early dismissals and a corresponding increase in county staff time spent attending hearings, preparing reports to the court, and providing outreach and engagement services. CBHDA assumes 5% to 10% of the petitions filed by family members that would otherwise be dismissed — 109 to 326 cases — instead result in an approved CARE plan or CARE agreement because of information the petitioner supplies during the proceeding. These costs would be payable through the quarterly claiming process described above. Staff notes this component does not measure the cost of the review duty this bill imposes. The amount instead reflects an assumption about how courts will rule once additional information is before the court, and the cost of serving the additional participants that assumption produces. The range is therefore sensitive to a projected change in case outcomes rather than to a countable increment of workload, and the actual amount could fall outside the range in either direction.

4) Significant one-time costs to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to update its existing training and technical assistance (TTA) regarding contractor's scope of work. DHCS estimates $1 million in fiscal year 2027-28 to expand the existing contract.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Conference of Bar Associations (source)
California State Association of Psychiatrists
Families Advocating for the Seriously Mentally Ill
Family Advocates of Individuals with Serious Mental Illness
Treatment Advocacy Center
Two individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Cal Voices
California Peer Watch

Mental Health America of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Conference of Bar Associations:

> This legislation reflects a deliberate and necessary evolution of the CARE Act. When the CARE Court was enacted in 2022, the Legislature intentionally limited the role of the original petitioners after filing, unless the respondent provided affirmative consent. However, early implementation revealed a critical gap: families who initiated CARE petitions were often excluded from the process, siloed, and lacked the ability to support their loved one, undermining engagement, continuity of care, and the effectiveness of the program. Additionally, respondents lacked insight into their condition, misunderstood the court proceedings, and intentionally declined to allow family participation due to their underlying condition including paranoia and lack of insight.
>
> In response, the Legislature amended Welfare & Institutions Code section 5977 to require ongoing notice to original petitioners effective July 1, 2025, ensuring that families were notified about court proceedings while maintaining confidentiality and judicial discretion. SB 1242 represents the next logical step in this legislative progression. The bill ensures that families remain partners in the recovery of the individual, provide ongoing support, and are involved in community-based care coordination. Confidentiality protections remain intact and participation may be limited by the court.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to Mental Health America of California:

> CARE Court is a legal mechanism where petitioners can ask the court to force an individual, the respondent, into court-ordered, thus involuntary, behavioral health care. Under current law, if a CARE respondent consents, the court may allow the petitioner to participate in the respondent's CARE proceedings. The respondent's consent is the primary basis for this allowance. This bill provides a pathway for a family member petitioner to circumvent a respondent's consent. This would violate a respondent's right to health care privacy..

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/25/26 13:02:56

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1247
Author: Padilla (D), et al.
Amended: 8/10/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/6/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Jones, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Social media platforms: child influencers

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires a social media platform to provide a clear and conspicuous mechanism by which a child influencer who is at least 18 years of age can request a vlogger to delete or edit certain paid content that features the child influencer as a minor.

Assembly Amendments relocate this bill's provision from the Business and Professions Code to the Family Code.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that a minor is an individual who is under 18 years of age. (Family (Fam.) Code, § 6500.)

2) Provides that a minor's parent or guardian is entitled to the earnings of the minor, except as provided in 3), 4), and 6). (Fam. Code, § 7500.)

3) Provides that the parent or guardian of a minor who is emancipated—through marriage, serving on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, or a declaration of emancipation—is not entitled to the minor's earnings. (Fam. Code, §§ 7002, 7050.)

4) Provides, under "Coogan's Law," that the parent or guardian of a minor who enters into a contract for artistic or creative services, including online content creation, or for participating in or playing a sport, is not entitled to the minor's earnings when specified conditions are met. (Fam. Code, §§ 6750-6753.)

5) Defines the following relevant terms:
   a) "Content" means statements or comments made by users and media that are created, posted, shared, or otherwise interacted with by users on an internet-based service or application, but does not include media put on a service or application exclusively for the purpose of cloud storage, transmitting files, or file collaboration.
   b) "Family" means a group of persons related by blood or marriage, including civil partnerships, or whose close relationship with each other is considered equivalent to a family relationship by the individuals.
   c) "Online platform" means any public-facing internet website, web application, or digital application, including a mobile application, and includes a social media platform, advertising network, mobile operating system, search engine, email service, or internet access service.
   d) "Vlog" means content shared on an online platform in exchange for compensation.
   e) "Vlogger" means a parent, legal guardian, or family residing in California that creates image or video content that is performed in California in exchange for compensation, but does not include any person under 18 years of age who produces their own content.

f) "Vlogging" means the act of sharing content on an online platform in exchange for compensation. (Fam. Code, § 6650.)

6) Provides that, when at least 30 percent of a vlogger's compensated content includes the likeness, name, or photograph of a minor, the vlogger must compensate the minor for their appearance in the content pursuant to a prescribed compensation formula, and the moneys must be held in trust for the minor until they reach the age of majority or are emancipated. (Fam. Code, § 6651-6653.)

7) Provides that, if a vlogger knows or should have known that they violated the provisions of 6), the minor appearing in the content may commence an action to enforce the requirements of 6) and may obtain actual damages, punitive damages, and attorney's fees and costs. (Fam. Code, § 6654.)

8) Provides that 6) does not apply to a contract for vlogging services between a parent or guardian and a minor if the court has approved the contract pursuant to Coogan's law. (Fam. Code, § 6656.)

9) Defines "social media platform" as a public or semipublic internet-based service or application that has users in California and that meets both of the following criteria:

   a) A substantial function of the service or application is to connect users in order to allow users to interact socially with each other within the service or application; email or direct messaging services alone are insufficient to satisfy this criterion.
   b) The service or application allows users to do all of the following: (1) construct a public or semipublic profile for purposes of signing into and using the service or application; (2) populate a list of other users with whom an individual shares a social connection within the system; and (3) create or post content viewable by other users, including, but not limited to, on message boards, in chat rooms, or through a landing page or main feed that presents the user with content generated by other users. (Business (Bus.) & Professions (Prof.) Code, § 22675(f).)

This bill:

1) Defines the following terms:
   a) "Child influencer" means a person who is at least 18 years of age who is featured as a minor in paid content on a social media platform.

b) "Paid content" means image or video content shared on a social media platform by a vlogger for which the vlogger receives compensation.
c) "Social media platform" has the same meaning as in section 22675 of the Business and Professions Code.
d) "Vlogger" means a person who meets both of the following criteria:
    i. The person is a parent, legal guardian, or family member of a child influencer who shared images or video content featuring that child influencer constituting at least 30 percent of the person's content shared on social media platforms.
    ii. The person received compensation for sharing the content featuring the child influencer.

2) Requires a social media platform to provide a clear and conspicuous mechanism by which a child influencer can request a vlogger to delete or edit paid content, pursuant to 4), that meets both of the following criteria:
    a) The paid content is adequately identified by the child influencer so that the social media platform is able to notify the vlogger who is able to remove the paid content from the social media platform.
    b) The paid content features the child influencer as a minor.

3) Requires a social media platform to notify the vlogger of the request within three business days of receipt if the mechanism provided does not enable the child influencer to submit a request directly to the vlogger.

4) Requires a vlogger, within 10 business days of receipt of a notice or direct request, to delete the identified paid content or edit the identified paid content in such a way that the child influencer is no longer featured in the paid content.

5) Provides that a child influencer may bring a civil action against a vlogger who violates the above for all of the following relief:
    a) Actual damages.
    b) Statutory damages in the amount of $3,000 for each day that the vlogger is in violation of 4).
    c) Injunctive relief.
    d) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

6) Requires a court to consider all of the following when considering whether to grant injunctive relief:
    a) Emotional harm or substantial embarrassment the paid content causes the child influencer.
    b) Increased risk to the child influencer of harassment or compromised safety.

c) Loss of control of personal information.
d) Harm to future opportunities.

Comments

Previous legislation established financial protections for minors whose images are used by vloggers to receive compensation. Under this bill, a child influencer, upon reaching the age of 18, may take control of content featuring images and videos of them as a minor by requesting they be edited or removed. The bill requires social media platforms to provide a clear and conspicuous mechanism for child influencers to request such action, and if certain criteria is met, the platforms must notify the relevant vlogger of the request. The vlogger is thereafter required to delete or edit the paid content, as provided. Vloggers who fail to carry this obligation are subject to civil actions for specified remedies.

Measures to protect children. The dramatic rise of content created and monetized by social media influencers, and specifically content heavily featuring minors, has drawn attention to a gap in these laws. A series of infamous examples of family members exploiting minors appearing in their content has raised calls for legislation to protect the interests of these children. Mirroring a law enacted in Illinois, SB 764 (Padilla, Ch. 611, Stats. 2024) responded to this gap. That law places obligations on adult "vloggers," creators of online content for compensation, whose online content features minors "engaging in vlogging" to set aside a certain amount of gross earnings in a trust account to be established in a California financial institution. A child is "engaged in vlogging" when a certain percentage of the content includes the minor and the related compensation reaches a certain threshold. Such vloggers are also required to maintain and share records related to the amount of relevant content produced and the compensation received therefrom.

Establishing control and privacy rights. Under this bill, a child influencer, upon reaching the age of 18, may take control of paid content featuring images and videos of them as a minor by requesting they be edited or removed. Current law allows for the financial protection of child influencers but does not give control of their images and videos to those child influencers upon reaching adulthood. The author seeks to establish a process whereby child influencers can take control of their online paid content and secure privacy rights as adults.

This process requires a social media platform to provide a "clear and conspicuous mechanism" for a child influencer to request edits or deletion of vloggers' paid content featuring them. This provision establishes unambiguous communication

between the parties to ensure any child influencer can easily access this mechanism to make a privacy request.

Once the paid content that features the child influencer as a minor has been adequately identified, the child influencer may use the communication mechanism to make a request. Upon receiving this request, the social media platform must inform the vlogger of the request if the mechanism does not enable the child influencer to submit a request directly to the vlogger. Within ten business days of receiving the privacy request, the vlogger must delete or edit the paid content in such a way that the child influencer is no longer featured in the paid content.

Violations are subject to a civil action, to be brought by the child influencer, as specified. For a more thorough analysis of this bill and its provisions, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis.

According to the author:

> Children featured in family videos lose the ability to control their image at a young age and face privacy and security concerns growing up in the public eye. SB 1247 would give children who were monetized online the ability to exert privacy rights by giving child influencers the ability to delete content featuring them as minors once they reach adulthood.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Costs are unknown, with potentially significant cost pressure to the courts to the extent there are additional civil filings for new violations created by this bill. Actual costs would depend on the number of child influencers seeking to edit or remove content and subsequent civil actions and injunctive relief. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts. The proposed FY 2026-07 Governor's budget would provide $70 million General Fund support (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/2026)

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Child Protection Task Force (a Committee of Sag-aftra)
No Affiliation

Oakland Privacy
Quit Clicking Kids

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/2026)

Civil Justice Association of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The American Academy of Pediatrics, California, writes:

> SB 1247 strikes a thoughtful balance between family expression and a young adult's right to privacy and dignity. Importantly, the bill does not impose liability on social media platforms for the content itself; rather, it creates a practical process for handling removal requests and places responsibility on the compensated content creator. The measure also appropriately limits its scope to monetized family content where the child influencer appeared in a substantial portion of the material.
>
> California has often led the nation in recognizing emerging harms facing children in digital environments. SB 1247 continues that leadership by ensuring that children who grow up online are afforded basic autonomy over their own image, identity, and personal history.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC) writes:

> The bill would impose penalties of a set $3,000 per day for each day of noncompliance. CJAC is concerned about the creation of a private right of action in this manner, as such claims can be readily brought and, when paired with significant statutory penalties, may invite abusive litigation and further burden already strained courts without providing a commensurate public benefit.
> CJAC respects the author's intent to protect minors and to provide individuals with control over content featuring them online. However, for the reasons stated above, we remain concerned with the bill's penalty structure and the creation of an additional private right of action in this context.

Prepared by: Bill Herms / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548, Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548, Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/26/26 14:12:59 ****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1255
Author: Reyes (D), et al.
Amended: 6/25/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-1, 4/8/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 31-7, 5/27/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Jones, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: Designation of California Hispanic-Serving Institutions

SOURCE: Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

DIGEST: This bill establishes, upon appropriation, criteria and procedures for postsecondary educational institutions in California to receive a designation as a

California Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) for the purposes of recognizing institutions that excel at providing academic resources to Latino students.

Assembly Amendments 1) remove the requirement that at least 25% of an institution's enrollment consists of Hispanic and Latino students to qualify for the state designation, 2) modify the application timeline, 3) require the governing board to meet at least annually, instead of twice annually, while allowing additional meetings as needed, and 4) makes other minor technical and clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California State University (CSU), under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the University of California (UC), under the administration of the UC Regents, the California Community Colleges (CCC), under the administration the Board of Governors of the CCC, and independent institutions of higher education, as defined, as 4 segments of postsecondary education in the state. (Education Code (EC) §66600, §70901, § 66010.4 et al, and Article IX, § (9)(a) of the California Constitution)

2) Establishes criteria and procedures for postsecondary education institutions in California to receive a designation as a California Black-Serving Institution (BSI). It designates the CSU Central Office for Advancement of Black Excellence to serve as the managing entity and authorizes the office to process applications for the designation. An eight-person governing board is established to determine through a 2/3 vote whether a college or university is qualified for the BSI designation. (EC § 66076 et al.)

This bill:

1) Establishes, upon appropriation, the Designation of California HSI for purposes of recognizing colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to Latino students enrolled in degree or certification programs offered by colleges and universities. The designation is to be only awarded to qualifying applicants by a 2/3 vote of approval from the governing board.

2) Authorizes the designation for a period of five academic years and permits a recipient to apply for renewal after five years.

3) Specifies that an applicant is eligible for the designation if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:

   a) Meets the application deadline established by the managing entity.

   b) Has either submitted an initial or renewal application that meets specified criteria.

   c) Posts the initial or renewal application on the applicant's website.

4) Requires that the initial application include, at a minimum, all of the following:

   a) A certification by the institution's chief administrator of their commitment to address Latino student success that is consistent with the institution's mission.

   b) Academic goals for the institution to achieve within the five-year period for which the initial designation is valid. The goals described in the application are to improve retention, time-to-degree or time-to-certificate completion, and graduation rates of Latino students and the overall student population based on data submitted by the applicant, as applicable.

   c) Academic equity goals for the applicant to achieve within the five-year period for which the initial designation is valid. The goals described by the applicant are to reduce the academic equity gaps in the retention, time-to-degree or time-to-certificate completion, and graduation rates between the applicant's Latino students and the overall student population based on data submitted by the applicant, as applicable.

   d) A strategic plan for the five-year period for which the initial designation is valid. The strategic plan is to describe how the applicant intends to meet their stated academic goals and academic equity goals. The strategic plan is to include at a minimum all of the following:

      i) A mission statement that addresses the applicant's commitment to serve Latino students.

      ii) Outreach services to Latino students to encourage them to enroll.

iii) Academic and basic needs support services to assist in the success of Latino students, which may include affinity centers, corequisite coursework, or concurrent support activities.

iv) An outline of the planned allocation of resources during the five-year period for which the initial designation is valid to ensure that the strategic plan can be implemented.

v) An outline of how the applicant will use existing resources to provide culturally relevant professional development to the applicant's faculty and staff.

vi) Academic curriculum, including incorporating and expanding curriculum and course offerings in ethnic studies and other culturally responsive coursework, to reflect the diverse backgrounds of Latino students and support their academic engagement and retention.

vii) Research initiatives, including institutional research to address the needs of lived experiences of Latino populations, both on campus and in the broader community.

viii) Data disaggregation collection and analysis to identify and address the distinct needs and achievement gaps of diverse Latino ethnic subgroups.

ix) Intersegmental collaboration between the UC the CSU, the CCC, and independent institutions of higher education to strengthen the educational pipeline for Latino students, including support for transfer and completion of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees.

e) A four-year college or university applicant is to include graduation rates for the previous three academic years for all students, and for Latino students, within the normal time and up to 150% of the normal time to degree completion, yield, retention, and graduation rate.

f) A community college applicant is to include for the previous five academic years:

i) The number of degree and certificate programs completed by all students, as well as by Latino students.

ii) The number of all students and of Latino students who completed degree and certificate programs within the normal time and up to 300% of the normal time to degree completion yield, retention, and graduation rate.

iii) The student transfer rates for all students and for Latino students, to four-year colleges and universities.

5) Establishes a renewal application process that takes effect upon expiration of an application and specifies the requirements for renewal, which include demonstration of the applicant's progress toward achieving academic and academic equity goals and implementing a strategic plan, and outlining new academic goals to be achieved within the new five-year period, as specified.

6) Provides that if a renewal application is denied by the governing board, the applicant is only authorized to apply to receive an initial designation.

7) Makes CSU the managing entity for the designation and requires CSU to act as a neutral administrative body charged with duties related to accepting applications, establishing annual deadlines, processing applications biannually, notifying applicants of approval or denial of their application by the governing board, preparing, and delivering the appropriate insignia to approved applicants.

8) Establishes the governing board of the Designation of California HSI for the purpose of awarding colleges and universities with the designation based on applications presented by CSU.

9) Requires that the governing board be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and specifies the composition of the eight member board.

10) Deems any designee of an appointed governing board member qualified to make decisions on behalf of that appointed position.

11) Limits board service of a public member appointed by either the Assembly Speaker or the Senate President pro Tempore to a two-year term. The bill further requires that the appointing authority of a public member make every effort to ensure that the board membership includes persons who have a strong interest in the further development and improvement of the academic success of Latino students.

12) Requires, for purposes of the first two years of the governing board's operations, the chair to be the Lieutenant Governor or their designee. Thereafter, the governing board is authorized to select a chairperson from within its membership by a two-thirds vote, as specified.

13) Requires the governing board to convene at least once a year to vote on the approval or denial of applications, as described and by a two-thirds vote by those present for the vote.

14) Defines various terms for the purposes of this bill.

15) States various legislative findings and declarations relating to the importance of supporting Latino students in higher education, historic barriers faced by Mexican American and other Latino students in California public schools, and the uncertainty surrounding the federal HSI program.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author, "Since the federal designation was established, Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) have played a critical role in California's higher education system. California is home to the most HSI in the country, with 171 colleges and universities holding this designation.

"These HSIs, spanning both public and private colleges and universities, not only build the capacity to better serve Latino and low-income students, but leverage the resources they receive to develop programming that helps all students on campuses. HSI funding has helped institutions provide tutoring, mental health services, career counseling, and modern learning facilities that directly improve persistence and graduation rates. Data shows that these institutions provide large economic returns for all the students they enroll, and in turn fuel local economies and the workforce. Despite this work, many HSIs are currently in jeopardy due to political and legal battles, which threaten their ability to sustain the equity strides they have made for students.

"California's strength comes from the success of our diverse students. By formally recognizing Hispanic-Serving Institutions in state law, we are acknowledging the campuses that are doing the hard work to close opportunity gaps and help Latino students thrive in college and beyond. This designation will shine a light on what works and encourage continued investment in student success.

"We cannot allow our students to become collateral damage in political and legal battles. SB 1255 sends a clear message: we will defend college access, protect educational quality, and stand firmly behind the students who represent the future of our state."

*Federal Minority-Serving Institutions program uncertainty***.** Federally, the Minority-Serving Institutions program supports higher education institutions that serve high concentrations of minority and low-income populations by assisting these institutions in strengthening their academic, administrative, and fiscal capacity The Minority-Serving Institution Program consist of several types of programs, including the HSI Program. Eligible institutions may apply for competitive grants. To qualify for a federal HSI designation, a qualifying institution must have an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 25% Hispanic. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities reports that nationally 171 of the 615 institutions meeting the federal HSI enrollment criterion in 2023 are located in California. At the federal level, Minority-Serving Institutions programs, including HSIs, face uncertainty regarding ongoing funding and program structure, which has prompted consideration of state-level recognition.

Creates California HSI designation. This bill aims to establish an independent HSI designation for California institutions defined as CCC, CSU, UC, and independent higher education institutions. When applying for the designation, institutions are required to provide information on the outcomes of Latino students, as well as a detailed description of academic resources available to support their academic success. Applicants must fulfill several additional criteria. The designation is valid for a period of five years, after which a campus may apply for renewal. Unlike the federal program, the proposed state designation does not offer financial assistance to successful applicants.

Modeled after BSI designation. This bill's provisions appear to be modeled after SB 1348 (Bradford, Chapter 627, Statutes of 2024), which created California's BSI designation, the first of its kind, to recognize colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to Black and African American students. CSU's Statewide Central Office for Advancement of Black Excellence serves as its managing entity, with determinations made by a separate governing board. The BSI governing board convened its inaugural meeting in December of 2025 and approved an initial cohort of 31 campuses for the designation, including two UC campuses, three CSU campuses, 25 CCCs, and one independent institution of higher education. Information regarding subsequent meetings is not available on the BSI's governing board website. Similar to SB 1348, this bill creates a statewide

designation, establishes a managing entity (CSU) and governing board, and requires institutions to apply and demonstrate efforts to improve student success, including for a historically underserved student populations, such as Latino students.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill could have the following fiscal impact:

- While the bill's implementation is subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, the CSU cites ongoing General Fund costs in the mid-to-high hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to serve as the managing entity for initial and renewal designations and oversee the application and designation process.
- Potential minor one-time Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures for a community college district (CCD) applying for designation as a CHSI. The California Community College's Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) reports a total of 96 designated HSI community colleges under the pre-existing federal designation.
- Minor General Fund state operations costs for the CCCCO to participate in the CHSI designation governing board.
- Minor and absorbable costs to the University of California (UC).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (source)
Academic Senate California State University
Altamed Health Services
Antelope Valley Community College District
Association of California School Administrators
Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities
California Community College Independents
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Campaign for College Opportunity
Cerritos College
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Contra Costa Community College District

EDvance College
El Camino Community College District
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Kern Community College District
Lake Tahoe Community College
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Community College District
Los Rios Community College District
Mt. San Jacinto Community College District
National University
North Orange County Community College District
San Bernardino Community College District
San Diego Unified School District
San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
Santa Monica Community College District
Southern California University of Health Sciences
Southwestern Community College District
State Center Community College District
uAspire
University of California Chicanx Latinx Alumni Association
University of California Office of the President
University of California Student Association
University of La Verne
University of Redlands
Victor Valley Community College District

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 17:53:20

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1268
Author: Gonzalez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Laird, Stern
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Outdoors for All initiative, to be administered by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

Assembly Amendments change the frequency of the reporting required by this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes CNRA and vests it with the responsibility to restore, protect, and manage the state's natural, historical, and cultural resources for current and future generations (Government Code (GOV) § 12805).

2) Establishes a goal to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 ("30x30") (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 71450 and Executive Order No. N-82-20).

3) Requires relevant state agencies, including CNRA and its departments, boards, offices, conservancies, and commissions, and the Department of Transportation to consider and incorporate state policy regarding equitable outdoor access when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, or grant criteria, or making expenditures (PRC § 1002).

4) Establishes the Equitable Outdoor Access Act, and sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful and sustainable access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources (PRC § 1000).

5) Requires CNRA to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the implementation of the Equitable Outdoor Access Act by January 1, 2024 (PRC § 1003).

6) Requires meetings of state bodies be open and public, and all person permitted to attend any meeting, except as provided (GOV § 11123).

This bill:

1) Establishes common definitions for relevant terms in the bill, including:
   a) "30x30 goal."
   b) "Agency."
   c) "Outdoors for All initiative."
   d) "Outdoor public recreation spaces."

2) Establishes the Outdoors for All initiative to be administered by CNRA in consultation with the Department of Parks and Recreations (State Parks) and other relevant state agencies.

3) Requires CNRA to implement the priorities in the Outdoors for All Strategy published on November 15, 2023.

4) Requires CNRA to maintain the position of Deputy Secretary for Access to coordinate the initiative's implementation.

5) Requires CNRA to update the Outdoors for All Strategy on or before December 31, 2031, and every eight years thereafter. The update shall:
   a) Align with relevant goals of the statute, including the state's outdoor equity goals and the 30x30 goal
   b) Ensure conservation strategies enhance public access and benefits for disadvantaged and low-income communities.

6) Requires CNRA, in implementing updates to the Strategy, to:
   a) Consult with diverse stakeholders, including community-based organizations, local governments, and environmental justice advocates, to ensure inclusive decisionmaking and prevent loopholes.
   b) host at least three public meetings during the update process. These meetings may be in-person, virtual, or hybrid.
   c) provide at least one 30-day public comment period on the update.
   d) post the final update on its internet website in a publicly accessible location.

7) Requires CNRA to submit a report to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature detailing the progress made to achieve the initiative's goals on or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.

8) Makes relevant findings and declarations.

Comments

Outdoors for All Initiative. The CNRA administers the Outdoors for All initiative championed by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. CNRA published a strategy (Strategy) for the initiative in November 2023 identifying six priorities:

1. Establish Spaces for People and Nature to Thrive.
2. Foster Belonging.
3. Connect People and the Outdoors.
4. Co-Create with Communities.
5. Build Equitable Career Pathways and a Representative Workforce.
6. Align Funding to Achieve Outdoors for All.

Equitable Outdoor Access Act. The Equitable Outdoor Access Act (AB 30, Kalra, Chapter 939, Statutes of 2022) established that it is the policy of the state to 1) ensure all Californians have equitable opportunities to the benefits of nature; 2) maximize public access to public lands; and 3) prevent and minimize the intentional and unwarranted limitation of sustainable public access to public lands.

The Outdoors for All initiative is championed by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom to implement the Equitable Outdoor Access Act.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis of a previous version, CNRA estimates ongoing costs of $250,000 annually (General Fund) for staff support and potential consulting costs to develop and produce strategy updates and progress reports as required by this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Active San Gabriel Valley
All About Owls
Allensworth Progressive Association
Alta Peak Chapter, California Native Plant Society
Amigos De Los Rios
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement
Audobon California
Audubon California
Azul
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Cactustocloud Institute
California Academy of Sciences
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Association of Recreation & Park Districts

California Environmental Voters
California Native Plant Society
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
California Outdoors Recreation Partnership (CORP)
California Park & Recreation Society
California State Parks Foundation
Californians for Western Wilderness
Calwild
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Progressive Reform
Central Valley Partnership
Children & Nature Network
City of Huron
Clockshop
Cofem
Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Conservation Lands Foundation
Day One
East Bay Regional Park District
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Information Protection Center
Fish on
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Friends of the Dunes
Friends of the Lost Coast
Friends of the River
Greenlatinos
Habitat 2020
Hispanic Access Foundation
Justice Outside
Kaboom!
Latino Outdoors
League of California Cities
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
Los Padres Forestwatch
Midpeninsula Open Space Trust
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Mono Lake Committee
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
Nature for All
Outdoor Outreach
Outward Bound Adventures
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Pogo Park
Prevention Institute
Resource Renewal Institute
River Partners
Salted Roots
Save Mount Diablo
Save the Redwoods League
Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Sempervirens Fund
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Club
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Siskiyou Crest Coalition
Sonoma Ecology Center
South Yuba River Citizens League
Surfrider Foundation
The Leap Institute
Tias on Trails
Trout Unlimited
Trust for Public Land; the
Wildlands Network
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Yes Nature to Neighborhoods

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "California is one of the world's premier destinations for outdoor recreation, home to hundreds of national and state parks along with countless regional, county[,] and city parks and open spaces. Outdoor recreation has clear benefits not only for California's economy, but also for public health – research shows that people who visit outdoor spaces for 30 minutes or more during a week have lower rates of depression and high blood pressure, and higher rates of community connection."

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/26/26 15:29:42

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1271
Author: Reyes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/13/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Midwifery: workforce data: availability to be a clinical preceptorship

SOURCE: Reproductive Health Rights and Justice Team from the Women's Foundation California Solis Policy Institute

DIGEST: This bill requires the Medical Board of California (MBC), in complying with workforce data collection, to request licensed midwives (LMs) to

provide MBC with information about the LM's ability to serve as a clinical preceptor and requires MBC to provide the information quarterly to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

Assembly Amendments add a coauthor, resolve chaptering conflicts, delay implementation to April 1, 2027 for MBC to begin collecting data, delay the due date for HCAI's report to the Legislature, and sunset the provisions of this bill on June 30, 2029.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires health care professional licensing boards to request specified data from licensees at least biennially for future workforce planning. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 502)

2) Establishes HCAI and requires HCAI to collect, analyze, and publish data about health care workforce and health professional training; identify areas of health workforce shortages; and provide scholarships, loan repayments, and grants to students, graduates, and institutions providing direct patient care in areas of unmet need. Establishes the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) within HCAI to, among other functions, develop criteria for evaluating applicants for various scholarships and loans. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §127000, et seq. and §127750, et seq.)

3) Requires HCAI, as part of the Midwifery Workforce Training Act, to establish a program for training certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and LMs in accordance with the global standards for midwifery education and the international definition of "midwife" as established by the International Confederation of Midwives, in order to increase the number of students receiving quality education and training as a CNM or as a LM. (HSC §128298(b)(1))

4) Requires HCAI, upon appropriation from the Legislature, to administer funding for a statewide study on midwifery education conducted by an outside consultant familiar with the health care and midwifery landscapes and workforce in California.

5) Establishes the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993, which provides for the regulation and licensure of LMs by the MBC. (BPC § 2505)

6) Requires the MBC to create and appoint a Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) consisting of licensees of the board and members of the public who have an interest in midwifery practice, as specified. (BPC § 2509)

7) Specifies that a person is qualified for licensure as a LM when they either complete a three-year postsecondary midwifery education program accredited by an accrediting organization approved by MBC and pass a licensing examination adopted by MBC or successfully complete an educational program MBC determines satisfies specified criteria. (BPC § 2512)

This bill:

1) Requires MBC, by April 1, 2027, in complying with data collection efforts for licensees pursuant to BPC § 502, to request LMs to provide MBC with the following and provide the information quarterly to HCAI:

   a) The LM's eligibility to serve as a clinical preceptor for student midwives enrolled in a midwifery education program approved by MBC, including whether they have met the minimum requirements to become a clinical preceptor, as well as whether the LM is currently available, or anticipates becoming available within the next two years, to serve as a clinical preceptor for student midwives and the primary practice setting or settings the LM would offer to serve as a clinical preceptor, including, but not limited to, home births, freestanding birth centers, hospital-based or integrated maternity settings, rural or frontier community settings, or federally qualified health centers.

   b) The maximum number of student midwives the LM is currently able to supervise concurrently and the county or counties in which the LM practices and would be available for clinical preceptorship.

   c) The primary reason or reasons a LM is not available if they tell MBC they are not available to serve as a clinical preceptor.

2) Requires HCAI, on or before June 30, 2029, to submit a report to the Legislature detailing the findings from this information.

3) Specifies that a LM is not required to provide the information as a condition for license renewal nor subject to discipline for not providing the information.

4) Sunsets the provisions of this bill on June 30, 2029.

5) Incorporates provisions from AB 1811 (Rogers), which is pending in the current legislative session, to resolve chaptering conflicts.

Background

Licensed Midwives. MBC regulates LMs under the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993, which became effective January 1, 1994, at a time that MBC also had oversight for a multitude of allied health professions. A LM is an individual who has been issued a license by MBC to practice midwifery. LMs who have achieved the required educational and clinical experience in midwifery (including completing a three-year postsecondary education program in an accredited midwifery school approved by the MBC) or met the challenge requirements (obtaining credit by examination for previous education and clinical experience – as of January 1, 2015, new LMs may not substitute clinical experience for formal didactic education), must pass the North American Registry of Midwives' comprehensive examination. After successful completion of this examination, prospective applicants are designated as a "certified professional midwife" and are eligible to apply for licensure as a LM.

LMs are authorized to attend cases of normal pregnancy and childbirth, as defined in statute, and to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family-planning care for the mother and immediate care for the newborn. They are also authorized to directly obtain supplies and devices, obtain and administer drugs and diagnostic tests, order testing, and receive reports that are necessary to the practice of midwifery and consistent with their scope of practice. LMs can practice in a home, birthing clinic or hospital environment.

When the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993 was first enacted, LMs were required to practice under the supervision of physicians. AB 1308 (Bonilla, Chapter 665, Statutes 2013) removed the statutory physician-supervision requirement, but LMs remain subject to statutory limits requiring consultation, referral, or transfer when a client's condition falls outside normal pregnancy and childbirth. AB 1308 specified that a midwife may assist in "normal" pregnancy and birth, defined through regulations. SB 407 (Morrell, Chapter 313, Statutes of 2015) authorized a health care provider to employ or contract with LMs for providing comprehensive perinatal services in the CPSP.

Midwifery Workforce. According to a February 2025 issue brief from the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) *Midwives Speak: Integration Challenges in California's Health System*, midwives play a critical role in the maternity care workforce by providing comprehensive care during pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum period, often serving as the primary birth attendant for low-risk pregnancies. The midwifery model of care emphasizes respectful, relationship-based, and person-centered care, supporting the physiologic process of labor and birth with minimal intervention unless clinically indicated. CHCF also notes that effective midwifery care includes appropriate consultation with obstetrician/gynecologists and timely transfer to physician care when complications arise or surgical intervention is required.

In California, two categories of midwives provide this care: LMs and certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), who are regulated by the California Board of Registered Nursing who practice primarily in clinics and hospitals. Although their training pathways and typical practice settings differ, both provide care centered on pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum care, family planning, and newborn care, while CNMs also provide broader sexual and reproductive health services. Nationally, CNMs are legally recognized in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Recent CHCF workforce data published in October 2024, *California's Midwife Workforce: Demographics*, highlights both the importance of midwives and ongoing capacity challenges in California. In 2023, California had 1,160 CNMs and 458 licensed midwives with active California licenses and California addresses; however, only 30 practicing midwives per 10,000 births statewide, with significant regional variation. The report showed that midwife-attended births have increased over time, rising from 8.4% of California births in 2012 to 12.8% in 2022.

While California law continues to require completion of a MBC-approved midwifery education program for licensure as a LM, the number of such programs is limited, and most are out-of-state or distance-learning programs with California-based clinical training. Many previously approved schools are no longer in operation, and as of recent workforce analyses, California has had little to no in-state accredited LM programs. Recent publications also highlight these training-capacity challenges. CHCF reported in 2024 that, in addition to LM program availability limitations, the state has only two accredited LM education programs, one of which was not admitting students.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The Assembly Committee on Appropriations notes costs to HCAI of approximately $195,000 per year until 2028-29 for one staff position to conduct the analysis, develop findings, and produce the required report and MBC anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Reproductive Health Rights and Justice Team from the Women's (source)
Foundation California Solis Policy Institute (source)
Around-birth Collective, INC.
Bipoc Student Midwives Fund
Black Women Birthing Justice
Black Women for Wellness
California Association of Licensed Midwives
California Coalition for Black Birth Justice
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Nurse Midwives Association
California Women's Law Center
Girls Talk Organisation
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
March of Dimes
Medical Board of California
Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, INC.
The Children's Partnership
Women's Foundation California, Solis Policy Institute

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note generally, "California is currently facing a significant maternity care labor shortage, particularly in rural and underserved communities which has left us in a full maternal mortality crisis. Licensed midwives play a vital role in providing prenatal, birth, and postpartum care, as well as community-based services like lactation support. Studies have demonstrated how effective midwives are in reducing unnecessary intervention during labor, and in some cases saving lives. Midwife preceptors are experienced maternity providers who play a critical role in training and mentoring incoming LMs- bridging their academic learning with hands on clinical experience."

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /
8/25/26 15:44:29

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1272
Author: Menjivar (D), et al.
Amended: 6/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/29/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 35-1, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Dahle, Jones, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Local ordinances: administrative fines or penalties

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill specifies that the reasonable period of time to correct or otherwise remedy a violation of building or zoning codes, as specified, to be no less than 6 months if certain conditions are met.

Assembly Amendments exclude certain types of violations from this bill's requirements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits, under the United States and California Constitutions, governments from impairing property rights without due process of law.

2) Allows counties and cities to adopt and enforce ordinances that regulate local health, safety, peace, and welfare.

3) Defines a nuisance as anything that is injurious to health, indecent or offensive to the senses, obstructs the free use of property, or unlawfully obstructs free passage.

4) Allows counties and cities to adopt ordinances that establish local procedures for abating nuisances (AB 2593, Veysey, 1965) and to recover abatement costs, including administrative costs, by using a special assessment, abatement lien, or both.

5) Allows, as an alternative to civil and criminal enforcement mechanisms, a local agency's legislative body to make any violation of any of its ordinances subject to an administrative fine or penalty (SB 814 (Alquist, Chapter 898, Statutes of 1995)).

6) Provides that a violation of a local ordinance is a misdemeanor, unless by ordinance it is made an infraction. In general, an ordinance violation that a local agency makes an infraction is punishable by:

   a) A fine not more than $100 for a first violation;

   b) A fine not more than $200 for a second violation of the same ordinance within one year; and

   c) A fine not more than $500 for each additional violation of the same ordinance within one year.

7) Allows higher fines for violations of building and safety codes:

   a) A fine not more than $130 for a first violation;

   b) A fine not more than $700 for a second violation of the same ordinance within one year;

   c) A fine not more than $1,300 for each additional violation of the same ordinance within one year; and

d) A fine not exceeding $2,500 for each additional violation of the same ordinance within two years of the first violation if the property is a commercial property that has an existing building at the time of the violation, and the violation is due to failure by the owner to remove visible refuse or failure to prohibit unauthorized use of the property.

8) Allows cities and counties to also impose fines and penalties through civil or criminal proceedings. These fines and penalties are limited to $1,000 per violation and six months in prison.

9) Requires a local agency that imposes administrative fines or penalties to adopt an ordinance specifying the administrative procedures that govern the imposition, enforcement, collection, and administrative review of those fines or penalties.

10) Requires the administrative procedures to grant a reasonable time to remedy a continuing violation before the imposition of administrative fines or penalties when the violation pertains to building, plumbing, electrical, or other similar structural and zoning issues that do not create an immediate danger to health or safety.

This bill:

1) Provides that for any violation pertaining to building, plumbing, electrical, or other similar structural or zoning issues, that do not create an immediate danger to health or safety, of any ordinance enacted by the local agency, the reasonable period of time to correct or otherwise remedy the violation shall be no less than six months if all of the following conditions are met:

   a) The property involved in the violation is an owner-occupied residential property containing only four units or fewer.

   b) The current owner of the property submits a sworn affidavit that the current owner was not responsible for any action that caused the violation and that the current owner had no knowledge of the violation at the time the owner took title to the property.

   c) The current owner of the property provides evidence that the violation was not disclosed in a transfer disclosure statement (TDS), as defined in existing law

2) Requires a local agency to extend the reasonable period of by an additional six months upon a showing by the current owner of a good faith effort to correct or

otherwise remedy the violation, and allows the local agency to extend the reasonable period of time further at its discretion.

3) Prohibits a local agency from imposing an administrative fee associated with a request for an extension pursuant to this bill.

4) Provides that this bill does not apply to an administrative fine or penalty that is imposed for a violation of any of the following:

   a) Cannabis laws;

   b) State Housing Law, as specified;

   c) Any law that regulates or ensures that habitability of rental housing, as specified;

   d) Specified state or local laws or regulations related to fire hazards;

5) Applies this bill to charter cities and includes findings and declarations to support its purposes.

Background

Real estate transactions. When an owner sells a single-family residential property, they generally must provide the buyer with certain disclosures that outline the conditions and issues with the property of which the seller is aware. Many of these disclosures are made on the Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS), including any known significant defects in the insulation, roof, foundation, plumbing, and electrical systems, among others. The TDS also includes an extensive questionnaire relating to specific dangers or issues known about the property.

In addition to the disclosures included in the TDS, state law requires other disclosures and notices. A seller must disclose to a potential buyer whether the property is located in a designated high or very high fire hazard severity zone and must provide a natural hazard disclosure statement disclosing whether the property is located in various disaster areas.

Buyers may conduct additional due diligence measures, such as hiring a home inspector, scouring property records, and purchasing title insurance, to ensure that they fully understand the condition of the property that they are purchasing—and the liabilities that might come with it.

However, issues are not always discovered through this process. This means that sometimes buyers of property find out later that unpermitted work occurred on a property when code enforcement knocks on their door. In one circumstance, the County of Humboldt fined a couple $1 million for an unpermitted structure constructed by a prior owner that the county alleged was used for cannabis cultivation.[1] The author wants to help property owners that unwittingly purchased properties with building or zoning code violations.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, "Keeping costs predictable for homeowners to address the state's growing affordability challenges is a matter of statewide concern. Homeowners are currently being unfairly penalized for actions taken by the previous homeowner on their property that do not pose an immediate danger to anyone's health or safety. And on top of this, even when the homeowner wants to do the right thing and fix the violation, they face additional financial pressure from the administrative fees and penalties imposed by localities. SB 1272, Curbing Abusive Sanctions on Homeowners (CASH) Act, seeks to provide some relief to homeowners."

Caveat emptor. The process of buying a home involves many steps to ensure that they are not saddled with unexpected property conditions. Because local governments can prosecute the current property owners for previous violations, the current structure adds an incentive to thoroughly vet properties for building and zoning code violations. This serves a broader public purpose: local officials enact these laws for the benefit of the community. For example, a recent San Francisco Chronicle article highlighted a circumstance where a buyer purchased a single family home that had been illegally converted from a fourplex by a previous owner, resulting in the loss of three relatively affordable housing units.[2] The City of San Francisco required the current owner to fix the violations. SB 1272 grants a longer period of time to homeowners who unknowingly purchase a property with a zoning code violation additional time to bring their property into compliance than they might otherwise have, and waives fees for extensions. However, this bill may not address the root problem, which is unscrupulous sellers failing to disclose illegal construction. A better remedy may be to strengthen disclosure requirements

[1] Billy Binion, *Reason Magazine.* "They Face $1 Million in Fines—for Someone Else's Code Violations." 31 October 2025.

[2] Alyce McFadden, *San Francisco Chronicle*. "They bought their North Beach dream home. The city says it must become four apartments." 10 March 2026.

for sellers or remedies for buyers who find out that they purchased a property with an undisclosed condition.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- No state costs. One-time and ongoing administrative and legal costs, as well as foregone penalty revenue, to impacted cities and counties of an unknown but potentially significant amount depending on the jurisdiction. Because it is optional for a local agency to make a violation of a local ordinance subject to an administrative fine or penalty, any associated costs or revenue losses are not reimbursable by the state.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Apartment Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Association of Code Enforcement Officers
California State Association of Counties
City of Bakersfield
City of Pico Rivera
City of Thousand Oaks
County of Solano
Rural County Representatives of California
Willdan Group, INC.

Prepared by: Anton Favorini-Csorba / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/24/26 16:22:24

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1273
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Alcoholic beverages: tied-house restrictions: wine instructional events and promotional lectures: video advertisements

SOURCE: Napa Valley Vintners

DIGEST: This bill expands existing provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act governing advertisements by authorized licensees for instructional events held on a retailer's premises. Specifically, the bill permits advertisements for authorized instructional events to include videos of up to 60 seconds when published in advance of the event as described.

Assembly Amendments clarify the provisions of this bill and make conforming changes other provisions in the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of ABC and grants it the exclusive authority to administer the provisions of the ABC Act in accordance with laws enacted by the Legislature. This involves licensing individuals and businesses associated with the manufacture, importation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in this state and the collection of license fees for this purpose.

2) Separates the alcoholic beverage industry into three component parts, or tiers, (referred to as the "tied-house" law or "three-tier" system), of manufacturer (including breweries, wineries and distilleries), wholesaler, and retailer (both on-sale and off-sale). The original policy rationale for this body of law was to: (a) promote the state's interest in an orderly market; (b) prohibit the vertical integration and dominance by a single producer in the marketplace; (c) prohibit commercial bribery and to protect the public from predatory marketing practices; and, (d) discourage and/or prevent the intemperate use of alcoholic beverages. Generally, other than exceptions granted by the Legislature, the holder of one type of license is not permitted to do business as another type of licensee within the three-tier system.

3) Permits a winegrower, a winegrower's agent, wine importer, or other specified parties to conduct or participate in, and serve wine at, an instructional event for consumers held at a retailer's premises featuring wines produced by or for the winegrower or, imported by the wine importer if specified conditions are met. In this regard, these licensees may list certain information in advertisements for the event, but those advertisements are prohibited from including any video.

4) Prohibits a premium, gift, free goods, or anything of value from being given away in connection with the instructional event by the winegrower, California winegrower's agent, wine importer, or retailer, except as authorized.

5) Provides that no alcoholic beverages may be sold at the instructional event, except that orders for the sale of wine may be accepted by the winegrower if the sales transaction is completed at the winegrower's premises.

6) Provides that the name, address, telephone number, email address, internet website address, and any other electronic media of a winegrower, wine importer, or winegrower's agent licensee, the brand names of wine being featured, and the time, date, location, and other identifying information of a wine promotional lecture at a retail premises may be listed in advance of the event in an advertisement of the off-sale or on-sale retail licensee.

This bill:

1) Expands on current provisions in the ABC Act related to advertisements by a winegrower, winegrower's agent, or wine importer for instructional events for consumers held at a retailer's premises by allowing that advertisement to contain videos that are up to 60 seconds long.

2) Removes the requirement that the specified information and any pictures, illustrations, or depictions in that advertisement be relatively inconspicuous in relation to the advertisement as a whole.

3) Provides that the advertisement may contain pictures, illustrations, videos, or depictions of the winegrower, wine importer, or winegrowers' agent and would authorize the advertisement to contain or consist of pictures, illustrations, videos, or graphical depictions.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "SB 1273 provides a targeted modernization to California's tied-house laws, building on the Legislature's prior work in AB 2452 (2018) and SB 788 (2019) by allowing winegrowers and wine importers to use short-term video in advertisements promoting legally permitted consumer events like winemaker dinners and tastings. Social media has changed dramatically since the Legislature last addressed this issue, and platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook now overwhelmingly favor video content, leaving California vintners at a growing disadvantage in reaching their own customers. At a time when the industry is facing serious headwinds, with well-known wineries downsizing or closing in recent months, this bill gives vintners a more authentic way to meet consumers where they are, at no cost to the state."

Tied-House Laws/Three-Tier System. Existing law, known as the "tied-house" law or "three-tier" system, separates the alcoholic beverage industry into three component parts: manufacturer/supplier (the first tier), wholesaler (the second tier),

and retailer (the third tier). The original policy rationale for this body of law was to: (1) promote the state's interest in an orderly market; (2) prohibit the vertical integration and dominance by a single producer in the marketplace; (3) prohibit commercial bribery and to protect the public from predatory marketing practices; and (4) discourage and/or prevent the intemperate use of alcoholic beverages. Tied-house laws generally prohibit suppliers and retailers from sharing common owners and legally restrict alcohol beverage suppliers' ability to gain control over retailers through indirect means. Generally, other than exemptions granted by the Legislature, the holder of one type of license is not permitted to do business as another type of licensee within the three-tier system.

Current authorizations. Winegrowers, their agents, and wine importers may hold instructional consumer tastings at a retailer's location, but only under specific legal conditions. They may provide small, free samples, since giveaways are otherwise prohibited. Alcohol cannot be sold at the tasting, though they may take orders as long as the actual sale is completed later at their own licensed premises. Current law also allows limited advertising of the event by the licensee, including basic identifying information and still images, but prohibits listing retail prices, making laudatory references to the retailer, using video, or making the retailer's information overly prominent.

This bill expands on provisions in the Act related to advertisements by the wine industry for instructional events for consumers at a retailer's premises. This bill allows for the advertisements to contain videos that are up to 60 seconds long and removes the requirement that the specified information and any pictures, illustrations, or depictions in that advertisement be relatively inconspicuous in relation to the advertisement as a whole.

Existing law authorizes certain licensees, or their representatives, to conduct or participate in defined instructional activities at a retailer's premises under specified conditions. Current law permits advertisements for these events to include limited information, pictures, illustrations, and depictions of the retailer's premises, personnel, and customers only if those visuals are relatively inconspicuous within the overall advertisement, and it prohibits the use of video. This bill expands this authority by allowing advertisements to include pictures, illustrations, videos, and depictions of the retailer's premises, personnel, and customers, subject to specified limitations.

Current statute limits how designated and on-sale retail licensees may advertise instructional tasting events to the general public, restricting them to specific mediums like flyers, newspapers, and interior signage. This bill eliminates these

channel restrictions, broadly authorizing licensees to advertise these events across various mediums. This bill seeks to modernize provisions governing how specified licensees advertise instructional events held at a retailer's premises, as specified. Major platforms including Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok have shifted their algorithms to prioritize video content, particularly short-form videos. Proponents contend that this update offers a sensible modernization of tied-house rules by permitting video in supplier advertising without weakening protections against undue retailer influence.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2452 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 705, Statutes of 2018) revised various advertising prohibitions for alcohol licensees when conducting instructional events at a retailer's location to, among other things, allow for pictures, illustrations, and depictions of the retailer's premises and for the name, address, telephone number, email address, Internet Web site address, and any other electronic media of the licensee upon whose licensed premises the event will be held.

AB 1891 (Levine, Chapter 273, Statutes of 2018) allows a licensed craft distiller to instruct consumers and conduct tastings on the premises of an on-sale and off-sale retailer, as long as certain specified conditions are met.

AB 780 (Williams, Chapter 408, Statutes of 2015) made clarifying and conforming changes relating to the listing of on-sale and off-sale retailers as a thing of value in order to enable licensees to connect with each other for normal commercial purposes.

AB 636 (Hall, Chapter 329, Statutes of 2013) permitted a winegrower, California winegrower's agent, importer, or other specified parties appearing at an instructional event, as specified, to provide autographs to consumers or consumer advertising specialties given by the person to a consumer or on any item provided by a consumer; and prohibited a requirement of the purchase of any alcoholic beverage in connection with such autographing.

SB 1101 (Wolk, Chapter 177, Statutes of 2010) clarified that winemakers who participate in instructional events or "meet the winemaker dinners," held at a retailer's licensed premises for consumers, may offer minimal samples, no more than three one-ounce tastes, of wine from "bottles."

AB 605 (Portantino, Chapter 230, Statutes of 2010) added new provisions to the Act authorizing the Department of ABC to issue to the holder of an "off-sale"

retail license an “instructional tasting license” for the purpose of furnishing tastings of alcoholic beverages to consumers, subject to certain limitations.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, minor and absorbable costs to ABC to provide education and enforcement of the revised advertising rules. This committee sees a wide array of bills that propose to modify the scope of alcohol laws. Generally, the majority of proposals do not generate significant new workload for ABC, but taken together, these proposals could lead to significant new costs and future budget requests. In this case, however, the proposed expansion of advertising privileges is relatively minor in scope and maintains safeguards against undue promotion of a retailer."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Napa Valley Vintners (Source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Napa Valley Vintners, “SB 1273 further updates the changes to the Business & Professions Code that were made in 2018 through AB 2452 to allow for a winery event promotion using social media. The 2018 amendments represented a good-faith effort to align California’s tied-house advertising rules with the realities of social media promotion at that time by allowing for photos and social media handles to be used in promotions. However, the digital landscape has shifted dramatically in the intervening seven years in ways that the Legislature could not have fully anticipated. SB 1273 is a common-sense fix that modernizes tied-house restrictions to allow video content in supplier advertisements, while maintaining protections against undue retailer promotion.”

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/25/26 15:29:03

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1276
Author: Rubio (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Crimes: sexual exploitation of a child

SOURCE: Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto

DIGEST: This bill expands the crime of sexual exploitation of a child to include downloading, streaming, or accessing through electronic or digital media specified depictions of a minor engaged in an act of sexual conduct.

Assembly Amendments require that the person knew that the matter depicted a person under 18 years of age in an act of sexual conduct.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits, except as provided, the act of knowingly sending or causing to sent, or bringing or causing to be brought, into this state for sale or distribution, or possessing, preparing, publishing, producing, developing, duplicating, or printing in this state any representation of information, data, or image, including, but not limited to specified media, or computer-generated equipment or any other computer-generated image that contains or incorporates in any manner, any film, filmstrip, or any digitally altered or artificial-intelligence-generated matter, with intent to distribute or to exhibit to, or to exchange with, others, or offering to distribute, distributing, or exhibiting to, or exchanging with, others, any obscene matter, knowing that the matter depicts a person under 18 years of age, or contains digitally altered or artificial-intelligence-generated data depicting what appears to be a person under 18 years of age, engaging in or simulating sexual conduct, as defined, punishable as a wobbler. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 311.1, subd. (a).)

2) Prohibits the act of knowingly sending or causing to be sent, or bringing or causing to be brought, into this state for sale or distribution, or possessing, preparing, publishing, producing, developing, duplicating, or printing in this state, with intent to distribute or exhibit to others, or offering to distribute, distributing, exhibiting to others any obscene matter, punishable as a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, § 311.2, subd. (a).)

3) Provides that every person who knowingly sends or causes to be sent, or brings or causes to be brought, into this state for sale or distribution, or in this state possesses, prepares, publishes, produces, develops, duplicates, or prints any representation of information, data, or image, including specified media or computer-generated equipment or any other computer-generated image that contains or incorporates in any manner, any film, filmstrip, or any digitally altered or artificial-intelligence-generated matter, with intent to distribute or exhibit to, or to exchange with, a person 18 years of age or older, or who offers to distribute, distributes, or exhibits to, or exchanges with, a person 18 years of age or older any matter, knowing that the matter depicts a person under 18 years of age personally engaging in or personally simulating sexual conduct, or any obscene matter that contains a digitally altered or artificial-intelligence-generated depiction of what appears to be a person under 18 years

of age engaging in such conduct, shall be guilty of a crime, punishable as a wobbler. (Pen. Code, § 311.2, subd. (c).)

4) Provides that every person who, with knowledge that a person is a minor under 18 years of age, or who, while in possession of any facts on the basis of which they should reasonably know that the person is a minor under 18 years of age, knowingly promotes, employs, uses, persuades, induces, or coerces a minor under 18 years of age, or any parent or guardian of a minor under 18 years of age who is under their control who knowingly permits the minor, to engage in or assist others to engage in either posing or modeling alone or with others for purposes of preparing any representation of information, data, or image, including specified media or computer-generated equipment or any other computer-generated image that contains or incorporates in any manner, any film, filmstrip, digitally altered or artificial-intelligence-generated matter, or live performance, involving sexual conduct by a minor under 18 years of age alone or with other persons or animals, is guilty of a felony. (Pen. Code, § 311.4, subd. (c).)

5) Provides that a person is guilty of sexual exploitation of a child if that person knowingly develops, duplicates, prints, or exchanges any representation of information, data, or image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video laser disc, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disc, data storage media, CD-ROM, or computer-generated equipment or any other computer-generated image that contains or incorporates in any manner, any film, filmstrip, or any digitally altered or artificial-intelligence-generated matter that depicts a person under 18 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, punishable as a misdemeanor for a first offense and as a felony for any second or subsequent offense. (Pen. Code, § 311.3, subd. (a).)

6) Specifies that it is not necessary to prove that the matter is obscene in order to establish the violation above. (Pen. Code, § 311.3, subd. (b).)

7) Provides that the crime of sexual exploitation of a child does not apply to law enforcement and prosecution agencies, to legitimate medical, scientific, or education activities, or to lawful conduct between spouses. (Pen. Code, § 311.3, subd. (d).)

8) Defines. for the purposes of the crime of sexual exploitation of a child, "sexual conduct" as any of several enumerated sexual acts. (Pen. Code, § 311.3, subd. (c).)

9) Establishes the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) which is generally intended to protect children from abuse and neglect with a focus on the needs of the victim. (Pen. Code, § 11164.)

10) Defines "neglect" under CANRA as the negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. The term includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person. (Pen. Code, § 11165.2.)

11) Defines "child abuse or neglect" under CANRA to include physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse as defined, neglect as defined, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child as defined, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury. "Child abuse or neglect" does not include a mutual affair between minors. "Child abuse or neglect" does not include an injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment as a peace officer. (Pen. Code, § 11165.6.)

12) Requires any mandated reporter who has knowledge of or observes a child, their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment whom they know or reasonably suspect has been the victim of child abuse or neglect, to report it as specified, to any police or sheriff's department, a county probation department if designated by the county to receive mandated reports, or the county welfare department. (Pen. Code, §§ 11166, subd. (a), 11165.9.)

13) For the purposes of CANRA, specifies that "sexual abuse" means sexual assault or sexual exploitation as defined by the following:

    a) "Sexual assault" means illegal sexual conduct as defined in several specified sections of the Penal Code, including provisions criminalizing rape, statutory rape, rape in concert, incest, sodomy, oral copulation, lewd or lascivious acts upon a child, sexual penetration, or child molestation, as specified.

    b) "Sexual exploitation" refers to the following:

        i. Conduct involving matter depicting a minor engaged in obscene acts in violation of the existing prohibition against preparing, selling or distributing obscene matter (Section 311.2) or against the employment of a minor to perform obscene acts (Section 311.4).

ii. A person who knowingly promotes, aids, or assists, employs, uses, persuades, induces, or coerces a child, or a person responsible for a child's welfare, who knowingly permits or encourages a child to engage in, or assist others to engage in, prostitution or a live performance involving obscene sexual conduct, or to either pose or model alone or with others for purposes of preparing a film, photograph, negative, slide, drawing, painting, or other pictorial depiction, involving obscene sexual conduct. For the purpose of this provision, "person responsible for a child's welfare" means a parent, guardian, foster parent, or a licensed administrator or employee of a public or private residential home, residential school, or other residential institution.

iii. A person who depicts a child in, or who knowingly develops, duplicates, prints, downloads, streams, accesses through any electronic or digital media, or exchanges, a film, photograph, videotape, video recording, negative, or slide in which a child is engaged in an act of obscene sexual conduct, except as provided. (Pen. Code, § 11165.1.)

This bill:

1) Expands the crime of sexual exploitation of a child to apply to anyone who downloads, streams, or accesses through electronic or digital media any representation of information, data, or image, as specified above, that depicts a person under 18 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct knowing that the matter depicts a person under the age of 18 engaged in an act of sexual conduct.

2) Specifies that the crime of sexual exploitation of a child does not apply to a child under 18 years of age alleged to have solely engaged in viewing sexual conduct through a video stream.

3) Expands the definition of "sexual exploitation" for the purposes of CANRA to include a person who depicts a child in, or who knowingly develops, duplicates, prints, downloads, streams, accesses through any electronic or digital media, or exchanges digitally altered or artificial-intelligence- generated matter that depicts a person under 18 years of age engaged in an act of sexual

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Non-reimbursable local incarceration costs of an unknown amount for additional convictions. A first violation is punishable by a fine of not more than $2,000, by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or both. A person previously convicted of a violation of that subdivision or any section of the same chapter is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison. Actual costs will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $29,000, though costs are higher in larger counties. County incarceration costs are not subject to reimbursement by the state. However, overcrowding in county jails creates cost pressure on the General Fund (GF) because the state has historically granted new funding to counties to offset overcrowding resulting from public safety realignment.

- Increased state incarceration costs of an unknown amount (GF) to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to the extent additional persons with qualifying prior convictions are committed to state prison. The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates the average annual cost to incarcerate one person in state prison at $128,000; CDCR estimates $135,921. If two people are incarcerated in state prison as a result of this crime's expansion, the resulting incarceration costs to CDCR would exceed this committee's suspense threshold.

- Potential court cost pressures of an unknown amount (Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF), GF) to adjudicate additional charges. The conduct reached by this bill — downloading, streaming, and accessing — is substantially more common than the development, duplication, printing, and exchange the statute currently reaches, so the number of chargeable violations could increase. Actual costs will depend on the number of charges filed and the time needed to adjudicate each case. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the TCTF may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the GF. The state budget provides annual GF backfills to the TCTF to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in 2025-26.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney (source)
American Association of University Women - California
California District Attorneys Association
California Family Resource Association
California State Sheriffs' Association

California Teachers Association
Child Abuse Prevention Center and its Affiliates Safe Kids California, Prevent Child Abuse California and the California Family Resource Association
City of Sunnyvale
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Sistahfriends
Strength United
The California Baptist Capitol Ministry

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/25/26 13:21:24

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1302
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Weber Pierson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Nursing

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to the regulation of registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) recommended as part of the joint sunset review oversight of the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN).

Assembly Amendments revise the timeframe for a RN to petition for reinstatement of a license when the license was revoked by default for failure to submit a notice of defense; require the attestation for verification of Transition To Practice (TTP) requirements to be signed by a California-licensee; require the BRN to identify

states where practice experience meets or exceeds California's TTP requirements, as specified; require a licensee to submit proof of continuing education (CE) at the time of renewal; require the BRN to review comparable TTP requirements of other states; requires an Intervention Committee (IC) to determine, as part of a rehabilitation program, whether a participant would be required to practice nursing prior to completion of the program; and clarifies the authority of RNs to practice pursuant to direction of APRNs; and makes other technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the BRN under the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer Affairs to license and regulate registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRN), pre-licensure nursing programs and continuing education (CE) providers until January 1, 2027. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 2701, *et. seq.)*

2) Requires, until January 1, 2027, the BRN to appoint an executive officer (EO) who must be a current, licensed RN in this state. (BPC § 2708)

This bill:

1) Requires the BRN to make a list of approved schools of nursing available on its website and revises the requirement for the BRN to meet in northern and southern California and allows the BRN to meet in appropriate locations that are necessary to transact its business.

2) Requires the BRN's inspection criteria to be consistent with the 2020 Nursing Education Approved Guidelines established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) or its successor as approved by the BRN.

3) Deletes the requirement for licensure examinations to be written and the authorization for the BRN to offer a supplemental oral or practical examination.

4) Combines the renewal and furnishing application for Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and Nurse Practitioners (NPs).

5) Replaces the percentage requirement for clinical experience with an hourly requirement during a declared state of emergency, as specified.

6) Requires any clinical practice hours that are not required to be in direct patient care and are provided using simulation experience to be based on the best practices published by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, or equivalent standards approved by the BRN.

7) Allows the transition to practice (TTP) for NPs to be completed in another state, in addition to California; requires the BRN to review out-of-state experience requirements by January 1, 2028; and require an attestation of completion of the TTP to be signed by a California licensee, as specified.

8) Permits a licensee whose license was suspended by default, to petition for reinstatement in a timeframe determined by the BRN.

9) Requires an IC to determine whether a participant is required to practice nursing prior to completing the program.

10) Repeals outdated references to fee floors, as specified.

11) Extends the operations of the BRN and its authority to appoint an EO by four years, until January 1, 2031.

12) Establishes a remediation pathway for directors and assistant program directors of prelicensure nursing education programs.

13) Makes additional technical and clarifying changes.

Background

Board of Registered Nursing and Sunset Review Oversight of the BRN. The BRN licenses and regulates over 500,000 nurse-licensees in California. In addition to licensing RNs, the BRN issues certificates to APRNs which include NPs, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs). The BRN is responsible for determining educational standards for all prelicensure nursing programs, approving such programs, approving CE providers, evaluating and licensing applicants, administering discipline, managing an intervention program for licensees with

substance use disorders or mental illness, and providing stakeholder information and outreach.

Geographic Meeting Requirements. Current law requires the BRN to meet at least once every three months in both Northern and Southern California. The BRN reports that meetings outside of Sacramento cost approximately $38,000 per meeting for travel, lodging, and hotel contracts. Eliminating the traveling requirement for meetings may reduce BRN expenditures. This bill modifies the BRN's existing mandate to allow the BRN flexibility to determine when and where it is appropriate to meet to help ensure the greatest amount of public participation.

Transition to Practice Acceptance: Experience Gained in Another State. Assembly Bill (AB) 890 (Wood, Chapter 256, Statutes of 2020) created a multi-tiered framework for NPs to practice in California. Under current law, NPs may practice independent of physician supervision in a defined health care setting (i.e. general acute care hospital, intermediate care facility, nursing facility), outside of one of those defined settings (a private practice), or NPs may practice in any healthcare facility under established protocols and procedures with physician supervision.

AB 890 specified education and experience requirements for an NP to be eligible to practice independent of physician supervision. NPs who seek independent practice in a defined healthcare setting are referred to as "103 NPs". Applicants for a 103 NP designation are required to pass a national NP examination, obtain certification as an NP from an accredited national certifying body, and complete a TTP. Notably, the law limits these individuals to having to complete the TTP in California. The TTP consists of a minimum of three full-time equivalent years of practice or 4,600 hours. NPs who want to practice independently outside of a defined healthcare setting, are referred to as "104 NPs." 104 NPs are required to meet additional requirements and provide proof of practice for three-years as a 103 NP in good standing, in addition to satisfying the TTP requirement. This bill authorizes TTP to be completed in California or another state but requires that experience to be verified by a California licensed provider as authorized in current law. Further, this bill requires the BRN to review TTP requirements in other states that require a TTP to verify consistency in training.

Furnishing Number and Streamlining the renewal process for NPs and CNMs. In California, CNMs and NPs may prescribe or furnish certain drugs and substances. CNMs and NPs may prescribe according to specified protocols and procedures while 103 and 104 NPs are authorized to prescribe independently. Both CNMs and NPs are restricted to only furnish those drugs or substances which fall within the

scope of practice of their respective certification level. Furthermore, for an NP whose furnishing is subject to standardized procedures and protocols, they must be supervised by a physician and surgeon.

AB 2684 (Berman, Chapter 413, Statutes of 2022) authorized the BRN to combine the application for a furnishing number into the same application for BRN-certification as an NP and CNM. Pursuant to BPC §§ 2746.51 and 2836.3, the BRN may issue a furnishing number upon initial application and, if approved by the BRN, the applicant is not required to make a separate application. However, the change does not affect renewal applications. This bill permits the BRN to combine the renewal application for both furnishing and licensing into one application, similar to what is permitted for initial authorization. This bill also removes unnecessary fees.

Uniform Standards for Clinical Practice Hours and Simulation-based Learning Guidelines. AB 2288 (Low, Chapter 282, Statutes of 2020), authorized the director of an approved nursing program, during a state of emergency, to make requests to the BRN to revise the number of required clinical experience needed and allow greater flexibility to use clinical simulation. The following year, during the BRN's sunset review discussions, the issue of simulation learning was once again raised. As a result, AB 2684 (Berman, Chapter 413, Statutes of 2022) revised the acceptance of simulation learning by replacing the percentage requirement of direct patient care clinical hours with a new 500-hour minimum number of direct patient care clinical hours that an approved nursing school or nursing program must meet with a minimum of 30 hours of supervised direct patient care clinical hours dedicated to each nursing area.

The changes from AB 2684 have made the emergency provisions specified in statute inconsistent with existing practice. The BRN no longer has a "percentage based" mechanism for direct clinical care requirements and instead relies on hours. This bill removes any references to percentages for simulation learning and instead replaces those numbers with the corresponding hours necessary to meet the BRN's requirements. In addition, this bill requires that anytime simulation is used for clinical experience, simulated learning meets the best practices published by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning, the NCSBN, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, or equivalent standards approved by the BRN.

School Approval Standards and Conformance with National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Guidelines. To help establish more consistency and

efficiency in the program approval process, the BRN seeks to revise some of its current standards and replace them with evidence-based standards that are recognized at the national level developed through the NCBSN. This bill requires the BRN, in its inspection and oversight authority of prelicensure nursing programs, to be sure any inspections are consistent with the national guidelines established by the NCSBN.

Nursing Program Directors. The BRN sponsored AB 2015 (Schiavo, Chapter 370, Statutes of 2023) with the goal of additionally streamlining the BRN's approval process for faculty and program directors. AB 2015 did two things: it provided a pathway for an RN to proactively be approved by the BRN as a faculty, director, or assistant director and established a temporary approval process for a RN seeking approval to be a faculty member (education) that they would be able to meet within a year, allowing them to fill the vacant role while remedying any deficiencies as laid out in a remediation plan accepted by the BRN.

Registered nurse practice conformity. RNs are required to operate pursuant to standardized procedures, which permits RNs and APRNs to delegate certain tasks, including the ordering of nursing services, as determined through the standardized procedures both at a facility and the standardized procedures between some NPs and supervising physicians. However, as recent legislative changes have granted authority for APRNs, including NPs, CRNAs, and CNMs to operate independent of standardized procedures, BRN believes there is ambiguity related to independently practicing APRNs and their authority to delegate or order tasks to other RNs. This bill adds clarifying language to ensure that RNs may continue to complete authorizes RN-related tasks as necessary.

Among other changes to update the BRN's operations, this bill requires a licensee to submit proof of completion of mandatory CE during the renewal process reducing the BRN's need to audit a licensee's CE history. This bill will also provide the BRN with flexibility to determine whether a licensee who is participating in an IP program will need to work as an RN in direct patient care prior to completing the IP.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill will result in costs of approximately $67.3 million to support the continued operation of the BRN's licensing and enforcement activities. The bill will result in additional costs of $218,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 and $210,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing for one staff position to interpret scope-of-practice implications, compare

transition-to-practice requirements to California standards, draft policy and guidance, validate vendor provided data, and both maintain Board specific historical analysis and a contract for a multi-state legislative tracking subscription service (BRN Fund). The bill will also result in minor and absorbable costs to the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) Office of Information Services.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Board of Registered Nursing
California Association for Nurse Practitioners
California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Medical Association (04/23/2026 version)

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note general support for extending the operations of the Board of Registered Nursing.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: California Medical Association writes in opposition to the April 23, 2026 version and notes "This bill lacks a sufficient clinical experience verification mechanism. An individual nurse practitioner attesting to completion of the transition period is not required to verify competence, clinical expertise, or other professional standards and is only attesting that the required three years of experience was completed. Time in practice alone should not be viewed as a substitute for meaningful evaluation of clinical competency. Additionally, this bill may encourage applicants to obtain qualifying experience in states with less rigorous oversight and then use that experience to obtain broader authority in California. This could create inconsistencies in preparation and training among practitioners exercising the same authority."

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
8/26/26 15:17:21

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1304
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Respiratory Care Practice Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill is the sunset bill for the Respiratory Care Board (RCB or Board) which makes various changes to the regulation of licensed respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) by RCB stemming from the comprehensive sunset review oversight of the RCB.

Assembly Amendments clarify in the Licensed Vocational Practice Act that basic respiratory tasks and services apply to all settings except the exempt settings, which are intended to have separate regulations that are not limited to basic

functions; authorize licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) to perform certain suctioning tasks, as specified; exempt clerical documentation and tasks that are not specifically identified by the Board and do not require a respiratory assessment, as specified; clarify whenever a task requires a respiratory assessment, it must be performed by an appropriately licensed practitioner, regardless of the patient's underlying diagnosis or the primary reason they are receiving care; define intermediate care facilities for the purpose of designating all qualified intermediate care facilities as exempt settings; define respiratory assessment; and make various technical changes to the Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes, until January 1, 2027, the RCB responsible for the licensing and enforcement of the respiratory care profession in California. (Business & Professions Code (BPC) § 3700 et seq.)

This bill makes various changes to the RCB in response to issues raised during the RCB sunset review oversight process including:

1) Extends the operations of RCB and its authority for RCB to appoint an executive officer from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2031.

2) Clarifies in the Licensed Vocational Practice Act that basic respiratory tasks and services apply to all settings except the exempt settings, as specified.

3) Authorizes an LVN to perform certain suctioning tasks including oral suctioning performed within the oral cavity that does not enter the oropharynx or beyond; nasal suctioning performed within the nasal cavity that does not enter the nasopharynx or beyond; tracheostomy tube suctioning when the suctioning device remains within the tracheostomy tube and does not pass beyond the distal end of the tube; removal and replacement of an external speaking valve for purposes of suctioning the tracheostomy tube.

4) Provides a technical name change to the national examination title to consolidate both the National Board for Respiratory Care's multiple-choice exam and the clinical exam.

5) Provides the RCB with authorization to grant automatic license suspension upon felony conviction for specified offenses and automatic license revocation for licensees convicted of specified felonies involving sexual misconduct or serious violence.

6) Clarifies that the following are not considered the practice of respiratory care: documenting observations and gathering and reporting data to another health care provider, without analysis, interpretation, or independent clinical decision making; any tasks or services that are not specifically identified by the Board and do not require respiratory assessment.

7) Defines respiratory assessment to mean conducting analysis to make recommendations concerning the respiratory management, diagnosis, treatment, or care of a patient or as a means to perform any task in regard to the care of a patient.

8) Adds additional exempt practice settings LVNs may perform respiratory care services, as specified; requires LVNs to complete patient-specific training satisfactory to their employer on or before January 1, 2028 and before the provision of care; and on or after January 1, 2028 requires LVNs, in accordance with guidelines that shall be promulgated by the RCB and in collaboration with the Board of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT), to complete task-specific training on each respiratory task or service the LVN will perform; specifies that training may be provided by the employer directly or through the California Association of Medical Suppliers, the California Society for Respiratory Care, or another organization identified by the Board; and requires LVNs complete patient-specific training provided by their employer.

9) Defines intermediate care facilities to include an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled that provides habilitative care, nursing care, or continuous nursing care.

10) Increases the renewal fee to $330, increases the renewal ceiling fee to $375 and permanently eliminates the license fee for applicants applying for licensure.

Background

The RCB licenses and regulates RCPs. RCPs work under the direction of a medical director and specialize in evaluating and treating patients with breathing difficulties as a result of heart, lung, and other disorders, as well as providing diagnostic, educational, and rehabilitation services. RCPs are utilized in virtually all health care settings.

RCPs provide services to patients ranging from premature infants to older adults. RCPs provide treatments for patients who have breathing difficulties and care for those who are dependent upon life support and cannot breathe on their own. RCPs

treat patients with acute and chronic diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), trauma victims, and surgery patients.

The Board currently issues over 1,200 new licenses and renews over 10,000 licenses each year. As of June 30, 2025, the Board had 21,390 active licensees, 2,799 delinquent licensees, and 891 current but inactive licensees. Of these licensees, 1,536 live out of the state or country. An additional 1,474 licenses have been placed in retirement status as of June 30, 2025.

Current law, (BPC § 3710.1), states that the protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions.

Oversight Hearings and Sunset Review of Licensing Boards and Programs. In March 2026, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of 10 regulatory entities including the RCB. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by the staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by the Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year. The following are selected issues pertaining to the Board along with background information concerning the issue.

Clarification for Individuals in Specified Settings and Under Certain Circumstances to be Authorized to Provide Limited Respiratory Care Services. For over 20 years, the Board and BVNPT have differed in their view of whether LVNs are legally authorized to provide certain respiratory services, including mechanical ventilator care, and have long discussed the difference in education and training between LVNs and RCPs. At one point, BVNPT issued guidance to its licensees saying that according to that board, they were authorized to adjust ventilator settings and do various related respiratory tasks, despite not having any statutory or regulatory authority to support that administrative guidance. The RCB has remained concerned about the patient safety implications of this messaging, noting that BVNPT has failed to revoke the policy even though there is no accompanying legal justification for it. The Board notes that LVNs performing services beyond the basic care they are authorized to engage in has led to adverse incidents resulting in death or serious harm that the Board is made aware of via requirements to take enforcement action for unlicensed practice.

In 2022, SB 1436 (Roth, Chapter 624, Statutes of 2022), amended the Vocational Nursing Practice Act to reiterate that LVN's do not possess independent authority to perform respiratory care services or treatments that are not specifically identified by the RCB. SB 1436 authorized LVNs with appropriate training, to perform only those basic respiratory tasks expressly identified by the Board. The Board-authorized tasks must be manual or technical in nature or involve data collection and must not require any form of respiratory assessment. This was intended to ensure that LVN involvement in respiratory care is restricted to narrowly defined, non-clinical activities that do not overlap with the specialized judgement and skills of RCPs. This bill recognized the unique care needs in home settings and provided clarifications to ensure LVNs performing certain tasks pursuant to employer training would not be considered the practice of respiratory care, ensuring that the LVN would not face unlicensed activity enforcement under narrow circumstances.

Since the passage of SB 1436, the Board became aware of other licensed home and community-based facilities and patients not covered in the exemptions outlined by that bill. Settings with only one or a few patients requiring respiratory services make it unfeasible to hire a full-time RCP and the Board sought to find balance to ensure patients would not be re-institutionalized or lose access to daily living services. In response to stakeholder concerns, the Board conducted extensive research to identify additional types of facilities, like small facilities outside of acute care facilities and independent providers who provide for transport and/or overseeing care of patients during daily activities, such as an outing, attending school, or providing a few hours of relief for parents' in-home care.

SB 1451 (Ashby, Chapter 480, Statutes of 2024) further amended the Act to add new exemptions for LVNs working in additional community-based settings to clarify that those individuals would not be considered to be practicing respiratory care and subject to RCB oversight.

In March 2024, the Board initiated the first of several new regulatory packages to define Board-approved basic respiratory tasks and services that LVNs may lawfully perform, in accordance with requirements for the Board to undertake this work. The regulatory language, discussed extensively at public meetings, explicitly listed the tasks that could be considered "basic", while also clarifying the limits of LVN practice.

While the basic respiratory tasks and services regulation provided clarity for licensed health care facilities, it erroneously did not include the additional exempt settings as added by SB 1451. This oversight prompted questions and concerns

regarding the level of care permitted in home health and community-based settings where LVNs have historically provided respiratory care beyond respiratory care services. To address these concerns, on January 12, 2026, the Office of Administrative Law approved an emergency amendment that clarified that the LVNs performing respiratory care services identified by the RCB while working in the specified home and community based exempt settings are not engaging in respiratory care.

The Board continued to receive questions from stakeholders specifically related to how its regulatory definition of basic respiratory services impacts suctioning-related tasks involving oral, nasal and tracheostomy-related care. According to the Board, the questions generally related to tasks that were typically viewed as basic nursing or caregiving functions and were not intended to be regulated as respiratory care services by RCB. To address this concern, on January 23, 2026, the Board held a Professional Qualifications Committee (PQC) meeting to discuss stakeholder feedback, examine how certain suctioning tasks are described and categorized under CCR, Title 16, §1399.365 and consider whether additional clarification is necessary. As discussed during the PQC meeting, the Board's regulatory concerns were focused on suctioning that involves *entry into the airway* and carries associated respiratory risks, such as bronchospasm, hypoxemia, mucosal trauma, or hemodynamic instability. The Board states that the regulation was structured to address suctioning procedures that rise to the level of respiratory care because they involve airway entry and require clinical respiratory assessment.

The PQC has determined that superficial nasal suctioning, within the nasal cavity only, is commonly treated as a basic nursing or caregiver task and does not involve airway entry, and therefore, does not rise to the level of requiring a clinical respiratory assessment. Nasal suctioning becomes a respiratory task when it enters the pharynx or airway therefore requiring a clinical respiratory assessment.

The PQC has determined that suctioning that remains confined to the interior of the tracheostomy tube and does not pass beyond the distal end of the tube is commonly treated as a basic nursing or caregiver task and does not involve airway entry, and therefore, does not rise to the level of requiring a clinical respiratory assessment.

The regulation does not address oral suctioning. Currently, oral suctioning is permissible when it is limited to the visible oral cavity and does not enter the airway or the oropharynx The PQC has determined that oral suctioning becomes a respiratory task when it enters beyond the oral cavity into the oropharynx or airway therefore requiring a clinical respiratory assessment.

At the March 2025 Board meeting, initial conceptual regulatory language was presented for three proposed sections to CCR Title 16, §§ 1399.361, 1399.362 and 1399.363, implementing the statutory framework created by SB 1451. The Board was provided with detailed feedback from board members and stakeholders to help refine the draft language. The clarified task lists aligned the terminology with national respiratory care standards. The RCB reports that board staff have initiated coordination with training providers and will continue working closely with the BVNPT and other stakeholders to refine the regulatory language establishing corresponding training standards. The final regulatory package is expected to be completed and adopted by or prior to the existing January 1, 2028, implementation date, barring any unforeseen obstacles.

This bill updates the Licensed Vocational Practice Act to clarify that basic respiratory tasks and services apply to all settings except exempt settings which are intended to have separate regulations that will be promulgated by the RCB on January 1, 2028. To address further concerns shared by stakeholders, this bill updates the exempt settings in which LVN's may perform respiratory care. This bill recognizes suctioning as a basic nursing or care giving task and authorizes an LVN to perform oral, nasal and tracheal suctioning tasks that do not permeate the airway, as specified. To dispel any further ambiguity for LVNs, this bill clarifies that clerical documentation and tasks that are not specifically identified by the Board and do not require a respiratory assessment are not considered a respiratory task or service and whenever a task requires a respiratory assessment, defined in the bill, it must be performed by an appropriately licensed practitioner, regardless of the patients underlying diagnosis or the primary reason that they are receiving care.

Automatic license suspension and revocation for certain felony convictions. Currently, licensees may still practice while the administrative enforcement process plays out, putting vulnerable patients at risk. Allowing licensees convicted of serious felony offenses to continue practicing during extended administrative proceedings undermines public trust and jeopardizes patient safety. To bridge this gap in enforcement, the Board recommended amendments similar to authority the Medical Board of California has to authorize automatic license suspension upon felony conviction for specified offenses and automatic license revocation for licensees convicted of specified felony offenses involving sexual misconduct or serious violence. This bill allows the RCB to automatically suspend and revoke licenses for certain felony convictions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the bill will result in costs of approximately $4.4 million per year to extend the operation of RCB. The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians anticipates potential costs of an unknown amount due to an increase in the number of complaints received and consequent workload and costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Assisted Living Association
California Association of Medical Product Suppliers
California Society for Respiratory Care
Pediatric Day Health Care Coalition
Respiratory Care Board of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

American Nurses Association/California
Association of California Healthcare Districts
California Association of Health Facilities
California Hospital Association
Leading Age California
One individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Assisted Living Association, The California Respiratory Care Board, the California Association of Medical Product Suppliers, and the Pediatric Day Health Care Coalition write in support stating that this bill streamlines and simplify the process whereby LVNs working for employers in exempted settings may perform specific respiratory care tasks and services, and ensures that there are adequate respiratory care services and providers in all care settings so that individuals with complex medical needs will continue to have the choice to safely reside in their homes or community based settings, maintain their independence and quality of life, and stay connected with their loved ones and communities.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Opposition to this bill states that establishing a different scope of practice for LVN's based on the setting in which they are practicing is inconsistent with how scope of practice has been historically determined for other licensed health professionals. They request this bill be amended to either delete the setting-specific framework in the existing SB 1304 or include additional settings where an LVN may perform respiratory care tasks to include skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disable, and pediatric and adult subacute facilities and hospitals;

allow employers that operate both exempt and non-exempt settings, such as continuing care retirement communities that operate senior living, assisted living and SNF's on the same campus, to train LVNs that work in all the settings to provide respiratory care tasks to residents that move between settings as their care needs change; clarify that LVNs' may perform respiratory tasks as part of their formal training and education program and under the supervision of the training program in any setting; specify the basic respiratory tasks that are within the data collection and observation roles of their scope and can be performed by LVNs in any setting based on their existing licensure and without additional training.

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /
8/26/26 15:19:47

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1311
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 7/1/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 3/23/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Licensed professions

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This urgency bill makes various conforming changes to existing requirements for unlicensed dental assistants (DAs) to complete an infection control course and makes technical changes to the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program, board appointments under the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, and contract requirements under the Private Investigator Act.

Assembly Amendments make a conforming change to require physician participants in the Physicians from Mexico program to satisfactorily complete the Test of

English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) by scoring a minimum of 85 rather than 85 percent.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Regulates the practice of dentistry and establishes the Dental Board of California (DBC) to administer and enforce the Dental Practice Act. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 1600-1976)

2) Defines a Dental Assistant (DA) as an individual without a license who may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist that has technically elementary characteristics, are completely reversible and are unlikely to cause potentially hazardous conditions for the patient being treated. (BPC § 1750 (a))

3) Requires the supervising licensed dentist to be directly responsible for determining the competency of the DA to perform the basic supportive dental procedures, and responsible for ensuring the DA has successfully completed a board-approved eight-hour course in infection control prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials. (BPC § 1750 (b-c))

4) Defines "direct supervision" to mean the supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who shall be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures. (BPC § 1741 (k))

5) Defines "general supervision" to mean supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist but not requiring the physical presence of the supervising dentist during the performance of those procedures. (BPC § 1741 (l))

6) Authorizes a DA to perform specified duties under the direct supervision and pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a licensed dentist. (BPC § 1750.1 (b) (1-18))

7) Defines an infection control course as providing theory and clinical application in infection control practices and principles where the protection of the public is its primary focus. An unlicensed DA not enrolled in a board-approved program for registered dental assisting or an alternative dental assisting program shall complete either a board-approved eight-hour course, with six

hours being didactic instruction and two hours being laboratory instruction or a board-approved eight-hour course, with six hours of didactic instruction and at least two hours of laboratory instruction using video or a series of video training tools, all of which may be delivered using asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanisms. (BPC § 1755)

8) Establishes the Medical Practice Act to regulate the practice of medicine by the Medical Board of California (MBC) within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). (BPC §§ 2000-2529.8.1)

9) Establishes the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program, which authorizes up to 30 licensed physicians from Mexico to practice medicine in California for a period not to exceed three years and requires applicants to submit an applicant to the MBC between October 1, 20205, and December 1, 2025, except that the MBC may accept up to 15 applications after December 31, 2025, and before January 1, 2028. (BPC § 2125 (g)(1)(C))

10) Establishes the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act to be administered by the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) within DCA and specifies the VMB be comprised of nine members – four licensed veterinarians, two registered veterinary technicians, and three public members. (BPC §§ 4800-4920.8)

11) Requires a veterinary technician to furnish satisfactory evidence of minimum education, as specified. (BPC § 4841.5(a)(4)(B))

12) Establishes the Private Investigator Act (Act), which vests with the director of the DCA, and by delegation, the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS), the responsibility to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act. (BPC §§ 7512-7573.5)

13) Requires every agreement to provide a service regulated by the Act, including, but not limited to, contract agreements and investigative agreements, to be in writing and include specified information, including the approximate state and completion dates of the work to be provided. (BPC § 7254 (a)(3))

This bill:

1) Authorizes unlicensed DAs, in order to comply with infection control course completion requirements, to complete either the Dental Assisting National Board's Infection Control examination or:

   a) a Dental Board-approved infection control course provided by a board-approved registered dental assisting education program

b) a Dental Board-approved infection control course that complies with existing Dental Board regulations

c) an asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanism course offered by either the California Dental Association or a provider approved by the California Dental Association; the American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program or; the Academy of General Dentistry's Program Approval for Continuing Education

2) Specifies that laboratory instruction means, for purposes of laboratory learning via an asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanism course, instruction in which students perform procedures using study models, mannequins, or other simulation methods.

3) Extends the application period for the Licensed Physicians from Mexico program to between October 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026, except that 15 applications may be accepted after July 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2028.

4) Makes technical changes to the VMB composition and appointing authorities.

5) Adds education provided by a California public school as acceptable evidence of minimum education competency for registration as a veterinary technician.

6) Clarifies that a private investigator master agreement for frequently contracted services over a specified period of time shall be exempt from including beginning and termination dates of the work to be performed.

7) States that this bill is urgent and necessary to take effect immediately to allow the MBC to timely accept applications from eligible participants for the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program pursuant to AB 2860 (Garcia, Chapter 246, Statutes of 2024), to provide clarity for licensing enforcement and services required to be rendered only through a written contract under the Act pursuant to SB 1454 (Ashby, Chapter 484, Statutes of 2024), to ensure the CVMB has a complete composition pursuant to AB 1502 (Berman, Chapter 195, Statutes of 2025), and to further ensure the CVMB has timely and complete requirements to evaluate applicants to become a registered veterinary technician, it is necessary that this bill go into immediate effect. Unlicensed DAs are currently required to take an eight-hour course prior to performing any basic supportive dental procedures that would have potential exposure to infectious materials. There have been issues preventing the establishment of the eight-hour course virtually and the eight-hour course is not readily available in many parts of the state, especially remote and rural areas already

experiencing access and workforce shortage issues. To mitigate these outcomes, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Background

The DBC licenses an estimated 112,000 dental professionals, of which 43,000 are fully licensed dentists; 46,000 are registered DAs; and 2,300 are registered dental assistants in extended functions. The DBC is also responsible for setting the duties and functions of an estimated 50,000 unlicensed DAs.

DAs are unlicensed, thus not registered with the DBC or directly regulated by the DBC. These individuals work under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist and assist that dentist with basic supportive procedures that are reversible and not likely to cause hazardous conditions for the patient being treated. Although unlicensed, these individuals are required to complete training and courses aimed at ensuring patient safety.

In 2024, DBC was subject to the Legislature's sunset review oversight process, which culminated in the passage of SB 1453 (Ashby, Chapter 483, Statutes of 2024), the DBC sunset bill. SB 1453 made significant changes to unlicensed DA practice. In response to concerns about dental workforce shortages, AB 481 (Carrillo of 2023) would have created new licensure pathways and expanded the duties of DAs. Proponents cited data from DBC showing that half of the state's 58 counties are experiencing a shortage of dental assistants and noted a 2021 survey that found 44% of providers indicated that trouble filling vacant positions limited their practice's ability to treat more patients. SB 1453 incorporated provisions of AB 481 that DBC could effectively implement, including various changes to the education, scope of practice, and regulation of dental auxiliaries, including DAs.

SB 1453 established the requirement that all unlicensed DAs who are not enrolled in a DBC-approved or alternative dental assisting program must complete an infection control course prior to the unlicensed DA performing any basic supportive dental procedures involving potential exposure to blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials. The bill specified that the course must be comprised of six hours of didactic instruction and two hours of laboratory instruction and authorized the course to be offered either in-person or using a video or a series of video training tools, all of which may be delivered using asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanisms. SB 1453 took effect on January 1, 2025.

In the months before SB 1453 took effect, despite being involved in every single aspect of the bill and having opportunities to weigh in about barriers to effective

implementation of the measure, including language surrounding the infection-control course, DBC began to publicly discuss issues that DBC staff said prevented key provisions of SB 1453 from taking effect. While the statute clearly and intentionally outlined a separate set of standards for the unlicensed DA infection control course, DBC staff expressed concerns at DBC meetings that this course would not meet the same standards as other courses required for DBC licensees and registrants. It should be noted, unlicensed DAs only perform basic supportive dental procedures, defined as those procedures that have technically elementary characteristics, are completely reversible, and are unlikely to precipitate potentially hazardous conditions for the patient being treated. Despite this fact, DBC cited additional concerns.

DBC staff said that the hours in the infection control course could not be met by existing DBC-approved course providers, despite the likely ability for course providers to update content to comply with the statutory requirements and receive updated approval to offer this specific course.

DBC also took umbrage with the fact that DBC was not provided authority to approve, deny, or withdraw approval for the SB 1453-created course, authority DBC has in regulations for oversight of programs created for registered DAs. Rather than explore alternatives to ensure program integrity for this one specific, statutorily prescribed course, DBC said it could not be implemented because DBC didn't have a process the same as its process for other courses.

SB 1453 authorized two hours of instruction to be delivered using asynchronous, synchronous, or online learning mechanisms or a combination thereof, but DBC said that is not enough and said it needed to meet requirements for the existing infection control course that requires hands-on laboratory activities like hand washing and glove use, despite the statute clearly establishing a different course and different course pathway for unlicensed DAs.

DBC also noted that there are no examination requirements, despite the intended course participants being unlicensed DAs who are not required to demonstrate competency through formal examination prior to performing their duties, as their competency is determined at the discretion of the supervising dentist.

This bill is intended to respond to DBC's determination that provisions of SB 1453 are not implementable, and among other changes, codify DBC regulations related to course approval, instruction, oversight, examinations, and more. The bill also updates current law to specify that a DA must complete the infection control course on or before 60 days from the first day of employment and specifies that,

prior to the DAs exposure to any potentially infectious materials, a bloodborne pathogen training is required to be provided by the employer.

MBC, CVMB, and BSIS Amendments. The amendments to various additional practice acts: 1) extend the timeframe for the MBC to accept applications from participants in the Mexico Pilot Program for a few months in case anything goes awry with the visa process or to allow for other contingencies and also make a conforming change related to the necessary TOEFL score; 2) make necessary and technical changes to the CVMB's composition and appointing authorities; and 3) clarify provisions for private investigators to provide contracts in the event of an investigation, while technical in nature, are time-sensitive and critical to the effective operations of each program and thus, are appropriate and necessary for inclusion in this urgency measure.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

No state costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Association of Licensed Investigators
California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
California Association of Orthodontists
California Dental Association
Dental Board of California
Medical Board of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Dental Assisting Alliance
California Dental Hygienist Association
Dental Hygiene Board of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Dental Association (CDA) notes that, "The limited availability of in-person courses, especially in rural and underserved areas, already struggling with workforce shortages, creates significant hiring delays. As a result, some candidates pursue jobs in other industries, further reducing the dental workforce. This challenge not only worsens staffing shortages in dental practices but also limits patient access to care."

The California Association of Licensed Investigators writes, "The California Association of Licensed Investigators [CALI] appreciates the provision added to SB 1311 on March 26 to clarify Business and Professions Code Section 7524 and

we support the measure as amended. SB 1311 would acknowledge and address the master agreements licensed private investigators have with many of their clients for frequently contracted services over extended periods of time."

The California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons writes, "This bill provides a reasonable and balanced update to existing law by allowing dental assistants to meet infection control requirements through either a board-approved course or by successfully completing the Dental Assisting National Board's Infection Control examination. It also introduces flexibility in course delivery by permitting a portion of required instruction to be completed through video-based training tools, while preserving hands-on laboratory components."
The California Association of Orthodontists writes that, "At a time when dental practices continue to face workforce challenges, SB 1311 provides sensible flexibility without compromising patient safety or professional standards. Supporting multiple pathways to demonstrate infection control competency will help maintain a well-trained dental workforce that continues to meet California's high standards of patient care."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Dental Assisting Alliance believes the bill conflicts with and undermines the Dental Board's mission. They say that the bill removes DBC from the regulatory process; replaces course requirements with examination only; eliminates hands-on training and creates inconsistency between pathway options.

The California Dental Hygienist Association and Dental Hygiene Board of California believes that this bill should be amended to require the dentist, or another licensed member of the dental team with infection control education and training, "to provide on-the-job training to the unlicensed dental assistant to ensure she/he is able to demonstrate how to carry out the safety protocols and duties in CCR Title 16, section 1005 (gloves, mask, sterilization) prior to working with the potentially infectious materials and patients." The group believes the bill, to have proof of training, should "require the [dentist] to certify that the hands-on training was successfully completed and keep a record of the certification available upon request."

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /
8/24/26 17:01:14

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1312
Author: Richardson (D)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

PRIOR SENATE VOTES NOT RELEVANT PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 29.10(d)

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 8-1, 8/26/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland
NOES: Niello
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-9, 8/25/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Cemeteries

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) establishes a process for an endowment care cemetery to be declared abandoned and have its title transferred to the county in which the cemetery is located; and 2) permits the county to transfer the care and maintenance of the cemetery to a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, as specified.

Assembly Amendments delete the current version of the bill and create a new bill; establish a process for a county to declare an endowment care cemetery abandoned; create a process for a county to take ownership of an abandoned endowment care cemetery and obtain the endowment care funds for purposes of care of the cemetery; alleviate the county from any taxes or other liabilities from the prior owner; permit a county, city and county, or a city to transfer the care and maintenance of an abandoned endowment care cemetery to a nonprofit benefit corporation to manage the cemetery and permits the nonprofit public benefit corporation to seek reimbursement from the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau

(Bureau) for expenditure of endowment care funds by the nonprofit public benefit corporation for maintenance, care and embellishment of the cemetery.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Bureau within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to administer and enforce the Cemetery and Funeral Act (Act), subject to review by the Legislature as though it were scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 7602)

2) Defines a "cemetery manager" as a person who engages in or conducts those activities involved in, or incidental to, the maintaining, operating, or improving a cemetery licensed under the Act, the interring of human remains, and the care, preservation, and embellishment of cemetery property. (BPC § 7611.4(a))

3) Exempts the following from the provisions of the Act: 1) a religious corporation, church, religious society or denomination, a corporation sole administering temporalities of any church or religious society or denomination, or any cemetery organized, controlled, and operated by any of them; 2) a public cemetery; and 3) any private or fraternal burial park not exceeding 10 acres in area, established prior to September 19, 1939; however, those cemeteries are subject to the cemetery brokerage provisions of the Act, and any cemetery is subject to all of the provisions of the Act, if it collects a care, maintenance, or embellishment deposit or sets up a trust for burial purposes, as specified, including funeral services such as mortuary, cremation, or other commodities or services furnished at the time of and in connection with that funeral or cremation. (BPC § 7612.2)

4) Requires the Bureau, to protect consumers, to adopt regulations that establish minimum standards of maintenance for endowment care cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Bureau. The regulations must consider differences in cemetery size, location, topography, and type of interments, along with the extent to which funds are available from the cemetery's endowment care funds to perform maintenance. (BPC § 7612.4(a))

5) Clarifies that maintenance standards adopted by the Bureau cannot supersede any standards of a higher level of care established by a local ordinance, as specified. (BPC § 7612(b))

This bill:

1) Exempts from the cemetery and funeral act any California nonprofit public benefit corporation that manages the continued care and maintenance of an abandoned endowment care cemetery that oversees or performs interments pursuant to prepaid burial contracts and does not enter into any new contracts for the sale of new burial spaces to consumers.

2) Defines "abandoned endowment care cemetery" to mean a cemetery that was formally licensed by the Bureau that meets the following criteria:

   a) The certificate of authority has been canceled, surrendered, or revoked and ownership has not been transferred in accordance with current law within one year of the cancellation, suspension, or revocation.

   b) The Bureau has conserved the endowment care fund, as specified.

   c) The cemetery property is negatively impacting the public health, safety, or welfare as identified by the county in which the cemetery is located.

3) States that if a county determines that a cemetery has been abandoned as specified in 2) above, the county must provide the owner of the property with 90 days' written notice to correct the public health, safety, or welfare concerns identified by the county, as specified.

4) Requires a county upon the expiration of the 90-day notice period where the county's concerns have not been addressed to declare the property an abandoned endowment care cemetery.

5) Authorizes a county upon declaring a cemetery property abandoned, the ownership of the abandoned endowment care cemetery real property may transfer to the county in which the cemetery is located by operation of law and county must record the transfer in the real property records of the county.

6) Requires a written notice be provided to the local agency formation commission 90 days prior to and upon declaration of abandonment and requires the written notice to at a minimum identify the record owner or possessor of the property, last known address of the record owner or possessor, the date the city, county, or city and county began the process to declare the property abandoned and a description of the real property subject to abandonment.

7) Requires a county that acquires title to the real property of an abandoned endowment care cemetery to keep a record of and honor all remaining contracts for burial entered into by the prior cemetery authority.

8) Provides a county that acquires title to real property of an abandoned endowment care cemetery is not liable for the debts, obligations, taxes, fines or judgement of the previous owner, with the exception of contracts for burials, as specified in 7) above.

9) Makes the property owner, whose cemetery has been subject to abandonment to remain responsible for satisfying any outstanding property taxes due at the time of transfer, as well as any other debts secured by the real property.

10) Requires a county within three years of the transfer of title to any remaining endowment care funds of the prior cemetery authority held by the Bureau and take possession of all necessary books, records, property, real and personal, and assets of the funds, and the assets of the funds must be placed in a special fund within the country treasury and may only be spent on care, maintenance, embellishment of the cemetery.

11) Authorizes a city, county, or city and county to transfer the care and management of an abandoned endowment care cemetery to a California nonprofit public benefit corporation in good standing to oversee burials, care, maintenance, and embellishment of the cemetery.

12) States that if the Bureau controls the endowment care fund, the nonprofit public benefit corporation that manages an abandoned endowment care cemetery may request reimbursement from available income in the endowment care fund for care, maintenance, or embellishment performed.

13) Requires the request from the nonprofit public benefit corporation to include a description and proof thereof, the total costs incurred, any other information required by the Bureau and further requires that all records be maintained for at least four from their creation and the Bureau may inspect those records upon request to the nonprofit benefit corporation and the Bureau must remain in control of the endowment care fund until a certificate of authority is issued for the cemetery or the county resumes management and requests the funds.

14) Requires a nonprofit public benefit corporation that manages an abandoned endowment care cemetery must keep a record of and honor all prior and outstanding contracts for burials entered into by the prior cemetery authority.

15) Relieves a nonprofit public benefit corporation that manages an abandoned endowment care cemetery from liability from any debts, obligations, taxes, fins, or judgements of the abandoned care cemetery's previous owner.

Background

Cemetery and Funeral Bureau. The Bureau licenses, regulates, and investigates complaints against California funeral establishments, funeral directors, embalmers, apprentice embalmers, cemetery brokers, cemetery salespersons, cremated remains disposers, crematories, crematory managers, cemetery managers, cemetery brokers and privately-owned cemeteries in the state. The Bureau does not have authority over cemeteries operated by religious organizations, cities, counties, or cemetery districts, and the military or Native American tribal governments.

The Bureau has oversight responsibility for both the fiduciary and operational activities of its licensing population. The Bureau has statutory authority to enforce the licensing and practice acts in the BPC along with jurisdiction over specified provisions of the HSC dealing specifically with human remains, cemetery and crematory provisions. With respect to the financial aspect of the industry, the Bureau is responsible for the oversight and regulation of preneed funeral trust funds, cemetery endowment care trust funds, and cemetery special care trust funds.

A Bureau-licensed cemetery is any private, non-religious cemetery established after 1939. Any cemetery established after September 7, 1955, is required to be an endowment care cemetery (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 8739.1). An endowment care cemetery is one in which a portion of the purchase price is contributed to an endowment care fund. Income generated from the fund provides for the regular care of the cemetery, including routine maintenance such as cutting grass, grave upkeep, caring for trees, maintenance of water supply systems, roads, drainage, etc. The minimum amount to be contributed to the endowment care fund is provided in HSC § 8738. The endowment care funds are collected no later than at completion of the initial sale. The intent of endowment care is to ensure that the maintenance and care of cemetery grounds are continuous to help prevent cemeteries from falling into disrepair. The Bureau has the authority to inspect and audit endowment care funds and cemeteries are required to report annually the status and conditions of such funds (BPC § 7612.6).

The Bureau's 2024 sunset background paper noted growing concerns regarding abandoned cemeteries and posed the question as to what steps could be taken to ensure that older cemeteries are appropriately and respectfully maintained by another entity after they have been abandoned by a licensee. Currently, when a private cemetery that has not interred more than 10 human bodies in the preceding

five years threatens or endangers the health, safety, comfort, or welfare of the public, statute allows (but does not require) a city or county to declare that cemetery abandoned.

Pursuant to BPC § 7613.11, 90 days following the cancellation, revocation, or suspension of a cemetery license, the Bureau is required to take title of the endowment care funds, and take possession of all the books, records, property, or assets, and act as the conservator over the management of the cemetery. The goal is to ensure the cemetery can be maintained for the time being while there is no licensee. The Bureau is to appoint a trustee to manage the funds. However, if the ownership is transferred to another licensee, then the Bureau does not need to intervene.

This bill would create a statutory definition of "abandoned cemetery" under the HSC. Upon a county's determination that the cemetery meets the criteria to be considered "abandoned" this bill will permit the subsequent transfer of the cemetery real property to the county. A cemetery is considered abandoned if the license has been canceled, suspended, or revoked by the Bureau and within a year a new licensee has not assumed responsibility, the Bureau has conserved the endowment care fund as authorized under existing law and the cemetery is negatively impacting public safety and welfare.

As part of the transfer process, the county will be required to honor any outstanding contracts for burial that were sold or executed by the previous cemetery licensee. Under the ownership transfer of the abandoned cemetery this bill exempts the county that takes title of the property from any debts, obligations, taxes, fines, or judgements of the previous owner. Any outstanding endowment care funds must be transferred to the county and placed in a special county fund which the county may only be expended on the care, maintenance and embellishment of the abandoned endowment care cemetery. A county must give the property owner 90 days' written notice to correct and health and welfare deficiencies of the property before the transfer of the property occurs. The owner of the property has 90 days to correct. If not, then the transfer to the county may proceed.

While a county may choose to take ownership of the property, it may not want to provide the care and maintenance of the cemetery. To that end, this bill would permit a county to transfer the responsibility for only the care and maintenance of that cemetery to a California nonprofit public benefit corporation in good standing to oversee the burials, care, maintenance, and embellishment of the cemetery.

Cemeteries licensed by the Bureau are required to abide by current regulations however, when a cemetery authority license is abandoned, there is no licensee to abide by those requirements and cemeteries may fall into disrepair. While this bill aims to help in those circumstances by creating a pathway for an entity to take over the care and maintenance, guardrails are necessary to ensure that any expenditures of endowment care funds are consistent with the care and maintenance of a cemetery that current licensees are required to abide by so there is assurance that funds remain to take care of the cemetery property in perpetuity.

This bill will allow a nonprofit benefit corporation to manage an abandoned endowment care cemetery and expend money from the endowment care fund but exempts the nonprofit from having to become licensed and from being subject to oversight by the Bureau. Although the bill requires the designated nonprofit to submit a reimbursement request to the Bureau, this bill does not provide the Bureau with any discretion to deny reimbursement requests for endowment care funds, including reimbursement for using the funds on projects or efforts that fall outside of what is considered care and maintenance under current Bureau regulations. In addition, this bill will allow either a county who manages a property or a nonprofit public benefit corporation to use endowment care funds for "embellishments" of the cemetery property. However, without being subject to Bureau oversight or regulations, "embellishment" can be broadly applicable, and those expenditures may go beyond what should be an appropriate expenditure for an embellishment. Future clarification as to the acceptable maintenance and care or embellishment expenditures from an endowment care fund may be necessary. Additionally, the Bureau should also be provided with authority to deny reimbursement for inappropriate expenditures.

It is further unclear whether the nonprofit responsible for maintenance and care of the cemetery will be subject to similar prohibitions as current cemetery license holders who are only permitted to expend the income from the endowment care fund. This bill may benefit from clarity in how a nonprofit is able to expend endowment care funds.

This bill does not specify a pathway for a county to transfer the cemetery title to a Bureau licensee in the event that another licensed cemetery or a new licensee is interested in taking over an abandoned cemetery. The law may benefit from additional updates to authorize a county to transfer the cemetery to a Bureau licensee, with language ensuring that a new Bureau licensee owner is not subject to the previous owner's liabilities.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the Bureau estimates the ongoing costs of $1.193 million in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 and $1.145 million in FY 2027-28 and annually ongoing to support an additional five associate management auditor positions and one supervising management auditor to oversee the audit staff; ongoing costs of $15,000 annually for the Attorney General (AG) to conserve endowment care funds, and $4,900 annually for additional Advisory Committee meetings and; ongoing minor and absorbable ongoing costs for processing additional citations, advisory committee meeting prep, and oversight of ongoing AG cases, and one-time costs to review and approve new procedures and write regulations. The bill will also result in potential court costs of an unknown amount for expanded mandatory judicial obligations upon a finding that a certificate of authority of a cemetery has lapsed or has been suspended, surrendered, abandoned, or revoked, including requiring the court to, among other things, name the Bureau conservator to conserve the endowment care fund, take actions as it deems appropriate to ensure the continued care, maintenance, and embellishment of the property, and pursue the transfer of the property ownership to one or more nonprofit, business, or governmental entities. Although the number of cases impacting the courts is unknown, the judicial obligations in this bill present a potentially significant court workload for each case. The bill will also result in ongoing costs of an unknown, but likely significant amount to public cemetery districts to the extent a city or county or court transfers to a district the care and management of an abandoned endowment care cemetery. The bill does not require a public cemetery district to be willing to accept responsibility for the transferred abandoned cemetery nor does the bill guarantee funding. Public cemetery districts are subject to the limits of Proposition 218, and their revenues closely match their operating expenses. To the extent an abandoned cemetery is transferred without the consent of the receiving district, the financial burden to the public cemetery district could be untenable. The district's costs are not reimbursable by the state.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received for the current version of the bill.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received for the current version of the bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-9, 8/25/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González,

Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Davies, DeMaio, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Lackey, McKinnor, Ta, Tangipa, Ward

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/26/26 19:05:38

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1340
Author: Richardson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/13/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Small business liaison: contract information

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires state agency small business liaisons to annually report to the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA) and post online information about state contracts and subcontracts involving small businesses. The report must include current contracts with small businesses, contracts with small businesses subcontractors, and the total amount paid to small businesses under those agreements; Additionally, and 2) requires an awarding department, upon completion of an awarded contract for which a commitment to achieve a small business goal was made, to require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a small business to certify specified information related to the awarded contract.

Assembly Amendments require an awarding department, upon completion of an awarded contract for which a commitment to achieve a small business goal was made, to require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a small business to certify specified information related to the awarded contract.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, under the Small Business Procurement and Contract Act (Act), state agencies to take certain actions in order to facilitate the participation of small businesses and microbusinesses in the provisions of goods, information technology, and services to the state, and in the construction of state facilities.

2) Defines a "small business" to mean an independently owned and operated business that is not dominant in its field of operation, the principal office of which is located in California, the officers of which are domiciled in California, and which, together with affiliates, has 100 or fewer employees, and average annual gross receipts of $10 million or less over the previous three years, or is a manufacturer, as defined, and has 100 or fewer employees.

3) Requires a state agency that significantly regulates small business or that significantly impacts small business to designate at least one person to serve as a small business liaison.

4) Requires the small business liaison to be responsible for specified duties relating to interactions between the state agency and small businesses, including assisting the head of the agency in ensuring that the procurement and contracting processes of the state agency are administered in order to meet or exceed the 25% small business participation goal, and developing and sharing

innovative procurement and contracting practices from the public and private sectors to increase small businesses.

5) Establishes the Office within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GOBiz) to advocate for causes of small businesses and to provide small businesses with information they need to survive in the marketplace.

6) Establishes, under the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program, a statewide participation goal of three-percent of total contract value expended each year for contracts awarded by any state agency, department, officer, or other state governmental entity, as specified.

This bill:

1) Requires the small business liaison of every awarding department, to make available a report on payment activity during the previous fiscal year related to all contracts awarded to a small business that includes specified information, and requires the small business liaison to submit the report to OSBA.

2) Requires a department, upon completion of an awarded contract for which a commitment to achieve a small business goal was made, to require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a small business to certify all of the following to the awarding department:

   a) The total amount that the prime contractor received under the contract.
   b) The contract number and description.
   c) The name, address, and certification identification number of the small business that participated in the performance of the contract.
   d) The amount and percentage of work the prime contractor committed to provide to one or more small businesses under the requirements of the contract and the total payment amount of each small business received from the prime contractor.
   e) That all payments under the contract have been made to the small business.
   f) The actual percentage of small business participation that was achieved.

3) Requires a prime contract to use the small business or microbusiness subcontractors proposed on its bid unless a substitution is requested in writing by the prime contractor and approved by the awarding department in writing.

Background

Author's Statement. According to the author's office, "small businesses are significant contributors to California's economy, accounting for 42.3% ($70.1) billion of the state's exports annually. These businesses drive economic growth and mobility, creating 7.6 million jobs in 2025 alone. In order to fully leverage the goal established by AB 2019 (Petrie-Norris), California must have a standard reporting requirement to ensure state agencies are meeting and/or exceeding the required 25% participation goal for small businesses. SB 1430 will help and identify participation gaps and strengthen accountability by evaluating whether small businesses are receiving meaningful access to state contracting requirements."

Small Business Liaison. Current law requires a state agency that significantly regulates small businesses or that significantly impacts small businesses to designate at least one person to serve as a small business liaison utilizing existing personnel and resources. State agencies are required to widely publicize the position of small business liaison on the agency's website. The Office is also required to establish a web portal that includes the name, telephone number, internet website, and email of the small business liaison.

The small business liaison is responsible for specified duties relating to interactions between the state agency and small businesses. This includes assisting the head of the state agency in ensuring that the procurement and contracting processes of the state agency are administered in order to meet or exceed the 25% small businesses participation goal, and developing and sharing innovative procurement and contracting practices from the public and private sectors to increase small business participation in state contracting and procurement.

Other responsibilities include receiving and responding to complaints received by the agency from small businesses, providing technical advice and assisting small businesses resolving problems and questions regarding compliance with the agency's regulations and statutes, reporting small business concerns, and if appropriate, reporting recommendations to the agency secretary or to the agency head.

This bill would require the small business liaison for each state agency to annually submit contract information to the Office including, among other things, a list of all contracts of the state agency that include a subcontract with a small business.

The bill would require the Office to post that contract information on its internet website.

Office of Small Business Advocate. Housed within GOBiz, the OSBAwas created by AB 29 (John A. Perez, Chapter 475, Statutes of 2011) "in order to advocate for the causes of small business and to provide small businesses with the information they need to survive in the marketplace."

The Office is responsible for serving as the principal advocate in the state on behalf of small business. This includes advisory participation in the consideration of all legislation and administrative regulations that affect small businesses, advocacy on state policy and programs related to small businesses, and representing the views and interest of small businesses before other state agencies whose policies and activities may affect small businesses. The Office is also required to seek the assistance and cooperation of all state agencies and departments providing services to, or affecting, small business, including the small business liaison, to ensure coordination of state efforts.

*Small Business Eligibility Requirement*s. In order for a small business to be eligible for certification, the small business must be independently owned and operated; not dominant in its field of operation; and, its principal office must be located in California. In addition, the business must be either a business with 100 or fewer employees and an average annual gross receipts of $15 million or less over the last three tax years; a manufacturer, as defined, with 100 or fewer employees; or, a microbusiness. A small business will automatically be designated as microbusiness, if gross annual receipts are less than $3.5 million; or the small business is a manufacturer with 25 or fewer employees.

Upon meeting eligibility requirements, certified small businesses and microbusinesses are entitled, to among other things, a 5% bid preference. The goal of the preference is to help small and micro businesses to be more competitive in the bid process, thereby enhancing state contract awards directly or indirectly to these types of businesses. The preference is only used for computation purposes to determine the winning bidder, the contract is awarded at the actual bid amount.

In addition, certified small businesses are eligible for the State's Business Participation Program, which sets a goal for the use of small businesses in at least 25% of the state's overall annual contract dollars.

Related/ Prior Legislation

SB 656 (Richardson, 2025) would have required all state agencies to designate at least one person to serve as a small business liaison, as specified. Additionally, the bill would have required the small business liaison to annually submit specified information to the Office. (Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File)

SB 2019 (Petrie-Norris, Chapter 730, Statutes of 2022) codified, among other things, a 25% small business goal for state procurement and proposes a number of actions to enhance the ability and commitment of state agencies to include small business, including microbusinesses in state contracting, as specified.

AB 29 (John A. Perez, Chapter 475, Statutes of 2011) created GO-Biz and established specific tasks and duties for the office, including reorganizing such entities as the Advocate into this new office. Additionally, the bill required state agencies to furnish the Office the reports, document, and information that are public records and that the Office deems necessary to carry out the Office's functions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Assembly Appropriations Committee, Ongoing General Fund costs of $137,000 annually to OSBA for one analyst and, potentially, an additional $25,000 to $75,000 annual IT, web, and data support workload (General Fund) to implement and maintain the annual reporting and publication process. OSBA also reports that if it is required to verify agency submissions independently, then costs would be higher.

It is unknown how much it will cost state agencies with designated small business liaisons, cumulatively statewide, to comply with the bill's expanded reporting mandates. However, according to the OSBA, significant costs, to awarding departments or the Department of General Services, might result from monitoring listed small business and disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) subcontractor utilization, reviewing and approving substitutions, requiring completion certifications, reviewing proof of payment upon request, and providing standardized data for OSBA publication.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California African American Chamber of Commerce
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce
California Black Chamber of Commerce
California Edge Coalition
California Retailers Association
CAMEO Network
Career Launch Path
Family Business Association of California
Latino Media Collaborative
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Prismatic Research & Strategy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Black Chamber of Commerce, "by requiring state agencies, departments, boards, and commission to report not only contract awards but also the actual payments made to small businesses, this measure will provide critical data needed to evaluate whether participation goals are being meaningfully achieved. This level of transparency is essential to ensuring that small businesses – particularly those in historically underserved communities – are not awarded contracts, but are fully and fairly compensated."

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/26/26 15:08:50

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1341
Author: Cabaldon (D)
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 27

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Beverage containers: wine and distilled spirits: processing fees

SOURCE: Wine Institute

DIGEST: This bill establishes a processing fee of no more than 12 cents per bag-in-box container until January 1, 2031.

Assembly Amendments rewrite this bill to establish a processing fee of no more than 12 cents per bag-in-box container until January 1, 2031.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Bottle Bill), which requires beverage containers, as defined, to have a California redemption value (CRV) of 5 cents for containers that hold fewer than 24 ounces and 10 cents for containers that hold 24 ounces or more. Requires beverage distributors to pay a redemption payment to CalRecycle for every beverage container sold in the state. Provides that these funds are continuously appropriated to CalRecycle for, among other things, the payment of refund values and processing payments. (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 14500 *et seq*.)

2) Requires distilled spirits, wine, and nonalcoholic wine manufacturers to participate in the Beverage Container Recycling Program (BCRP) through SB 1013 (Atkins, Chapter 610, Statutes of 2022) with a CRV of 25 cents regardless of the material type of the beverage container. (PRC § 14504)

3) Requires CalRecycle to establish a processing payment for a beverage container covered under the program that has a scrap value less than the cost of recycling, to be determined as specified, that is at least equal to the difference between the scrap value of the material and the sum of the cost of recycling and a reasonable financial return. (PRC §14575(b))

4) Requires beverage manufacturers to pay a processing fee that is equal to 65% of the processing payment. Reduces, or offsets, the processing fee for a container type with money from the Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BCRF) a specified percentage based on the recycling rate for that container type. This percentage ranges from 65% of the processing payment for a container type with a recycling rate of 30% or less to 10% of the processing payment for a container type with a recycling rate of greater than 75%. (PRC §14575(d))

This bill:

1) Stipulates that the processing fee for bag-in-box beverage containers shall be no more than 12 centers per container sold;

2) Allows CalRecycle to provide a credit on 2027 processing fees amounting to the difference between the initial 2026 processing fee ($0.32503) and the processing fee set by this bill (no more than $0.12);

3) States that if the funds needed to make processing payments to recyclers exceeds funds collected as processing fees, that CalRecycle shall expend

necessary funds to pay the processing payments in full, consistent with PRC § 14581;

4) States that this section does not remove CalRecycle's responsibility to calculate the cost of recycling and processing payments pursuant to PRC § 14575;

5) Defines a bag-in-box as a rigid box composed primarily of cardboard of corrugated paper containing an interior, flexible bag with a valve; and

6) States that the section will be repealed on January 1, 2031.

Background

Bottle bill background. The bottle bill was established through legislation in 1986 (AB 2020 Margolin, Chapter 1290, Statutes of 1986) with the joint goals of reducing litter and achieving an 80% recycling rate for all CRV containers in the program. In 2025, CalRecycle reported a 70% recycling rate for CRV containers in the "Biannual Report of Beverage Container Sales, Returns, Redemption, and Recycling Rates." While the program does not encompass all containers, it does encompass most beverage containers made from glass, plastic, aluminum, and bimetal (consisting of one or more metals).

The bottle bill operates by adding a 5 to 25 cent CRV payment to beverage containers in the program. Beverage distributors pay CRV on all new beverage containers they sell in California into the Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BCRF). Distributors then pass the cost of the CRV on to retailers, who in turn pass that 5-25 cents per bottle on to consumers at checkout. Individuals and businesses are incentivized to return bottles to recycling centers where they can redeem the value of the CRV. Once a consumer is ready to dispose of a bottle, they can return bottles to a certified recycling center and redeem their CRV, or consumers can put their bottles in residential curbside recycling collection, wherein the curbside programs, not consumers, keep the CRV on these containers. The redemption rate (the rate at which CRV containers are returned at recycling centers and supermarkets) was 60% for 2024.[1] According to a CalRecycle 2022 Fact Sheet, curbside programs collect about 12% of CRV containers.[2]

Processing payments. CalRecycle calculates a processing payment as the difference between the cost to recycle and the scrap value of the beverage

[1] Container Recycling Institute (2025) *Bottle Bill Resource Guide: California*, https://www.bottlebill.org/index.php/current-and-proposed-laws/usa/california
[2] CalRecycle (2023) *Beverage Container Recycling in California Fact Sheet Calendar Year 2022* (DRRR-2023-1726), https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Docs/Publications/Details/1726

containing. Materials which are more recyclable and with higher scrap values have lower processing payments. Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) for example had a processing payment of $0.00091 per bottle in 2025. In contrast, harder-to-recycle Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) has a processing payment of $0.05447 (approximately 60 times higher than PET).[3] CalRecycle must update the processing payment annually based on measured, actual costs of recycling, but may update the processing payment quarterly at their discretion.

CalRecycle collects 10 to 65% of the processing payment (called the processing fee) from beverage manufactures, called the processing fee. Manufacturers pay a processing fee which is a smaller percentage of the processing payment for products where the recycling rate is higher (PRC §14575(e)). The processing payment is then paid to recyclers. The portion of the processing payment not covered by the processing fee is paid from unredeemed bottle and can deposits. By passing along the cost of recycling from recyclers to manufacturers, the processing payment/fee achieves two goals: the processing payments incentivize recyclers to collect hard-to-recycle materials while disincentivizing manufacturers from using hard-to-recycle materials.

Wine and spirits in the bottle bill. SB 1013 (Atkins) added wine and spirits contained in a glass bottle, box, bladder, or pouch to the bottle bill with a CRV of 25 cents, regardless of the beverage container material. While glass is highly recyclable, boxes, bladders, and pouches are not.

a) *Boxes and cartons*. While some boxes could be made from coated cardboard (which is highly recyclable through curbside recycling), some are cartons. Cartons contain layers of fiber products, plastics, and thin layers of aluminum for waterproofing and shelf stability. Very few facilities accept cartons as it is laborious to separate the layers into separate, raw materials.[4]

b) *Bag-in-a-box*. The box of a bag-in-a-box doesn't require the same layers as a carton, since the bag is waterproof. However, the bag must be removed from the box, which is an additional labor cost. The box, though it is otherwise recyclable or compostable through curbside programs, is typically discarded. The bag can be made from a variety of materials, including #7 plastic or a combination of plastic laminate with PET, low density polyethylene (LDPE) or ethylene vinyl acetate. Neither option is

[3] CalReycle (2026) California Redemption Value and Processing Fee Reporting Rates 2026.
[4] Georgiopoulou, I, et al. (2021) *Recycling of post-consumer multilayer Tetra Pak® packaging with the Selective Dissolution-Precipitation process, Resources*, Conservation and Recycling. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921344920305838

easy to recycle.[5] #7 plastic (categorized as "other" by CalRecycle) had a processing payment of $0.14789, 162 times the cost of PET. LDPE had a processing payment of $0.01907, 20 times higher than PET.[3] A product made with several layers of different plastics adds additional complexity to the recycling process.

c) *Pouches*. Similar to cartons and bags-in-boxes, pouches are made with several layers. The packaging manufacturer MTPAK makes wine pouches with layers of Polyethylene (PE), nylon or PET, and aluminum.[6] As with cartons and bags-in-boxes, separating the layers to be recycled is difficult (if possible at all). Therefore, these pouches are difficult to recycle, regardless of how recyclable each constituent part is.

Without data on the cost of recycling, CalRecycle gave boxes, bladders, and pouches a placeholder processing payment, equivalent to the processing payment for HDPE ($0.00654 per bottle), until data became available. For 2026, CalRecycle released actual processing payments for bags-in-boxes (BIB), multilayered pouches (MLP), and paperboard cartons (PC) based on real recycling data.

Material	2026	2025	Increase
BIB	$0.32503	$0.00654	50x
MLP	$0.02802	$0.00654	4x
PC	$0.02851	$0.00654	4x

Therefore, the manufacturers of BIB, MLP, PC would have to pay processing fees 4 to 50 times higher than the previous year. While manufacturers could anticipate this processing fee increase, they might not have anticipated such a large increase.

[5] Good Harbor (2026) *Looking int the Plastic Predicament in Boxed Wine.* https://www.goodharbor.com/blog/looking-into-the-plastic-predicament-in-boxed-wine
[6] Zhou, M. (2025) *The Comprehensive Guide to Wine Pouch Packaging*, Mtpak. https://mtpak.com/the-comprehensive-guide-to-wine-pouch-packaging/

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "SB 1341 creates a mechanism to recalibrate the processing fee for beverage containers for situations in which the amount of fees expected to be collected is significantly higher than the amount needed to make the associated processing payments. This situation is occurring presently with certain wine and spirits container types that first entered the Bottle Bill program in 2024. Specifically, on December 15, 2025, CalRecycle announced an increase in the processing fee for bag-in-box containers of nearly 5000% that took effect on January 1, 2026. Information provided by CalRecycle made it apparent that the amount of fees expected to be collected would be several orders of magnitude more than necessary to meet anticipated processing payments for those containers. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to adjust processing fees in these instances. SB 1341 empowers CalRecycle to adjust the processing fee to account for these discrepancies."

Recycling rate incentives. Processing fees are collected when a beverage container is manufactured, but the processing payment only goes out when a beverage container is redeemed. Currently, manufacturers only pay up to 65% of the processing payment, which accounts for some number of unredeemed bottles. However, it is entirely possible that a container with a low redemption rate could lead to a surplus of processing fees beyond what is necessary to pay to recyclers.

Currently, the only mechanism CalRecycle has for reducing processing fees below 65% is when the recycling rate increases, creating an incentive structure for increasing recycling rates. By creating a mechanism for CalRecycle to reduce the processing fees on containers with *low* recycling rates, a perverse incentive is created for manufacturers: to maintain low recycling rates and to delay switching to a more recyclable alternative.

A compromise fee. The 2026 processing fee for bag-in-box containers was set at more than 30 cents per container which is 50 times the fee paid in 2025. The processing fee ceiling set by SB 1341 (12 cents) is a middle ground: less than true processing fee but still 20 times greater than the 2025 processing fee. Understanding that bag-in-box containers have a low recycling rate and therefore low processing payment costs for CalRecycle, the processing fee set by SB 1341 may strike the balance of paying out recyclers while allowing wine manufacturers to remain solvent. Additionally, SB 1341 maintains the true processing fee for multilayered pouches (MLP), and paperboard cartons (PC). Finally, the bill sunsets the bag-in-box provisions by 2031, providing adequate time for bag-in-box manufacturers to switch to more recyclable alternatives.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

"1) Annual forgone revenue of an unknown, but potentially significant, amount resulting from the requirement that CalRecycle exclude from the processing fee (currently $0.32503 per container) the box of a bag-in-box container (Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BCRF)).

"2) Possible cost pressure on the BCRF to make up for reduced processing fee revenue from bag-in-box containers, since the fund must still cover the gap between fees collected and what is needed to provide processing payments to processors and recycling centers. See background for more information.

"3) CalRecycle will incur some one-time and ongoing costs to establish the new processing fee methodology. For its part, the department estimates ongoing annual costs of $166,000 for one permanent position as well as $500,000 in contract funding every two years (BCRF). CalRecycle may incur additional costs to revise its recently approved regulations implementing SB 1013 (Atkins), Chapter 610, Statutes of 2022. See background for more information."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Wine Institute (source)
California Chiropractic Association
Californians Against Waste
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Tetra Pak INC.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received.

Prepared by: Alyssa Poletti / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/25/26 15:58:00

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1344
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 30-7, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Grove, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Jones, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Civil actions: housing development projects

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill provides a mechanism for a defendant in a civil action, including under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), challenging a project that is a priority care development project, as defined, to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project, and raises the amount the undertaking can be to no more than $1,000,0000. This bill also creates a special

motion to strike a challenge to the approval or permitting of a priority care development project modeled after California's anti-Strategic Lawsuit against Public Participation (anti-SLAPP) statute.

Assembly Amendments remove the requirement that a motion is to be scheduled by the clerk of the court for a hearing not more than 30 days after the service of the motion, authorizes the special motion to be filed within 60 days of service instead of requiring it to be filed, and a makes chaptering out amendments.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed discretionary project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA (CEQA includes various statutory exemptions, as well as categorical exemptions in the CEQA Guidelines). (Public Resources (Pub. Res.) Code § 21100 et seq.)

2) Sets requirements relating to the preparation, review, comment, approval and certification of environmental documents, as well as procedures relating to an action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul various actions of a public agency on the grounds of noncompliance with CEQA. (Pub. Res. Code § 21165 et seq.)

3) Authorizes judicial review of CEQA actions taken by public agencies, following the agency's decision to carry out or approve the project, and specifies certain time periods in which an action must be instituted depending on the type of claim alleged. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.)

4) Requires the superior court and court of appeal to provide lawsuits related CEQA preference over all other civil actions therein, in the matter of setting the same for hearing or trial, and in hearing the same, to the end that the action or proceeding is to be quickly heard and determined. (Pub. Res. Code § 21167.1(a).)

5) Provides that in all civil actions, including those brought by any plaintiff to challenge a housing development project which is a development project which meets or exceeds the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing, a defendant may apply to the court by noticed motion for an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and any damages that may be incurred by the defendant by the conclusion of the action or proceeding

as the result of a delay in carrying out the development project if the bringing of the action has the effect of preventing or delaying the project from being carried out. (Code of Civil Procedure (Code Civ. Proc.) § 529.9(a).)

a) Provides that a defendant seeking a security must make a motion for that security on the grounds that the action is without merit and was brought in bad faith, vexatiously, for the purpose of delay, or to thwart the low- or moderate-income nature of the housing development project. (*Ibid*.)
b) Authorizes the plaintiff, in response to a motion for an undertaking, to seek to limit the amount of the undertaking by presenting admissible evidence that filing an undertaking will cause it, and in cases where the plaintiff is an unincorporated association, its members, to suffer undue economic hardship. (*Id* at subd. (b).)

6) Requires the court, if the court determines after a hearing that the grounds for the motion have been established, to order the plaintiff to file the undertaking in an amount specified in the court's order, taking into consideration any admitted evidence of plaintiff's economic hardship and avoiding to cause the plaintiff to suffer undue economic hardship, as security for costs and damages of the defendant.
   a) The liability of the plaintiff for the costs and damages of the defendant is not to exceed $500,000.
   b) If the court concludes, based on all of the admissible evidence presented, that a bond in any amount would cause the plaintiff undue economic hardship, the court is authorized in its discretion to decline to impose a bond.
   c) If at any time after the plaintiff has filed an undertaking the housing development plan is changed by the developer in bad faith so that it fails to meet or exceed the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing, the developer is liable to the plaintiff for the cost of obtaining the undertaking. (*Ibid*.)

7) Establishes anti-SLAPP procedures, including for all civil actions brought to challenge a priority housing development project. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(b).)
   a) A "priority housing development" means a development in which 100 percent of the units, exclusive of any manager's unit or units, will be reserved for lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, for at least 55 years. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(c).)
   b) Entitles a prevailing defendant, with certain exceptions, to attorney's fees and costs; likewise for a prevailing plaintiff, provided the court finds the

motion was frivolous or solely intended to cause unnecessary delay pursuant to Section 128.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(b)(2).)

c) Stays discovery proceedings upon filing of notice of a SLAPP motion. (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.19(b)(5).)
d) Provides that these provisions do not apply any enforcement action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, district attorney, or city attorney, acting as a public prosecutor.

This bill:

1) Defines "priority care development" to mean any projects funded, in whole or in part, pursuant to Sections 5892 (Mental Health Services Fund) or 5965.04 (Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024), or subdivision (c) of Section 18999.97 (grants under the Community Care Expansion Program), of the Welfare Institutions Code. A "priority care development" does not include a "detention facility" as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 9500 of the Penal Code.

2) Establishes an anti-SLAPP motion statute similar to the one for a priority housing development, described in 5) above.

3) Authorizes a defendant in a civil action, including under CEQA, challenging a project that is a priority care development project, as defined, to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project

4) Raises the maximum of the undertaking to $1,000,0000. This amount is to be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on January 1, 2028, based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Department of Industrial Relations, for the most recent one-year period ending on December 31 preceding each adjustment, with each adjusted amount rounded to the nearest $25.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

Comments

This bill is intended to apply to "priority care developments," which are projects funded in whole or in part through the Community Care Expansion program, the

Behavioral Health Services Act, and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, including Homekey+.

California's anti-SLAPP statute provides that a cause of action against a person arising from any act of that person in furtherance of the person's right of petition or free speech under the United States Constitution or the California Constitution in connection with a public issue shall be subject to a special motion to strike. (Civ. Proc. Code § 425.16.) The Legislature asserted that the law was justified because "it is in the public interest to encourage continued participation in matters of public significance, and that this participation should not be chilled through abuse of the judicial process."

In 1992, Code of Civil Procedure section 425.16 was added by SB 1264 (Lockyer, Chapter 726, Statutes of 1992) to provide a "special motion to strike" for use by defendants in SLAPP suits to obtain an early judicial ruling and termination of a meritless claim arising from a person's exercise of their constitutional rights of petition and free speech in connection with a public issue. In passing the anti-SLAPP law, the Legislature found "that there has been a disturbing increase in lawsuits brought primarily to chill the valid exercise of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and petition for the redress of grievances." (Code Civ. Proc. § 425.16(a).)

In 2023, the Legislature enacted SB 439 (Skinner, Chapter 779, Statutes of 2023) and created a special motion to strike that is nearly identical to the anti-SLAPP statute with regard to challenges to certain housing developments. SB 439 allows for this motion to strike to be filed in a case that challenges the approval or permitting of a "priority housing development" project, explicitly including actions brought pursuant to CEQA. The procedures and guidelines mirror those in Section 425.16. As such, the court is required to deny the motion if it determines that the plaintiff has established that there is a probability that the plaintiff will prevail on the claim. This bill applies only to developments in which 100 percent of the units, excluding manager's units, are reserved for lower income households for at least 55 years. "Lower income households" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. This includes very low income households and extremely low income households. (Health & Saf. Code § 50079.5.)

This bill seeks to establish a motion to strike that is nearly identical to SB 439 with regard to challenges to of a priority care development project. The biggest deviation under this bill from SB 439, is that SB 439 does not apply in an

enforcement action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, district attorney, or city attorney, acting as a public prosecutor. This bill would apply in such an action.

SB 393 (Glazer, Chapter 285, Statutes of 2024) amended an existing provision of law (Code of Civ. Proc. § 529.2) that provided a mechanism for a defendant in a civil action challenging a housing project which is a development project that meets or exceeds the requirements for low- or moderate-income housing to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project. Prior to the enactment of SB 393, the defendant had the burden of making a showing that the posting of the undertaking would not place an undue hardship on the plaintiff. SB 393 shifted the burden to the plaintiff to demonstrate that posting a bond would place an undue economic hardship on the plaintiff, arguing that the plaintiff is the one who has the information to make such a showing and therefore it was more appropriate to place that burden on the plaintiff. The liability for the plaintiff cannot exceed $500,000.

This bill seeks to enact a similar mechanism for a defendant in a civil action, including an action under CEQA, challenging a priority care development. This bill allows such a defendant to seek an order requiring the plaintiff to furnish an undertaking as security for costs and damages that may be incurred by the defendant if the bringing of the action by the plaintiff would result in preventing or delaying the project.

The bill also raises the amount of liability that the court can set for the undertaking to not exceed $1,000,0000 from the existing maximum of $500,000. The bill provides that this amount is to be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on January 1, 2028, based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Department of Industrial Relations, for the most recent one-year period ending on December 31 preceding each adjustment, with each adjusted amount rounded to the nearest $25. Lastly, the bill provides that a “plaintiff” includes a ”petitioner,” “cross-petitioner,” and “cross-plaintiff,” and “defendant” includes “respondent,” “cross-respondent,” “cross-defendant,” and “real party in interest.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/29/26)

Attorney General Rob Bonta (Source)
Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego

Abundant Housing Los Angeles
California Housing Consortium
California YIMBY
Eden Housing
SPUR

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/29/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

> As of the most recent point-in-time count in 2025, approximately 187,000 Californians were experiencing homelessness on any given night. Local governments across the state are doing the right thing, approving permits for emergency shelters, interim housing, and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness, as well as residential facilities for unhoused individuals seeking treatment for behavioral health issues or substance use disorder. Those efforts are regularly met with frivolous lawsuits from groups whose only goal is delay.
>
> The Legislature has already passed laws to protect affordable housing projects from these kinds of lawsuits, allowing courts to quickly dispose of meritless challenges and requiring plaintiffs to post financial security when their lawsuit lacks merit and is brought in bad faith or to delay or thwart construction. SB 1344 applies that policy to housing projects that are funded through the Community Care Expansion program, the Behavioral Health Services Act, and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, including Homekey+. This bill extends both tools to these priority care developments and doubles the liability cap on the bond requirement, which has not been updated since 1981, from $500,000 to $1,000,000, indexed to inflation going forward.
>
> SB 1344 would help protect local governments that are doing their part to address homelessness, ensure these important projects are not unnecessarily delayed or blocked through abuse of the judicial system, and protect the public's investment in infrastructure to bring every Californian inside.

The Attorney General, Rob Bonta, source of the bill, writes:

> […] California supports local efforts to address homelessness through funding programs and by supporting local planning efforts. Unfortunately, local governments that are following the law and attempting to do the right

thing by approving permits for shelters, care facilities, and supportive housing are regularly met with meritless lawsuits from NIMBY groups endeavoring to block projects.

The California State Legislature has created two procedural tools to protect local governments from meritless challenges to affordable housing projects – the motion to strike under SB 439 (Skinner, 2023) and the bond requirement strengthened by SB 393 (Glazer, 2024). Unfortunately, these provisions do not protect local governments from meritless lawsuits challenging the approval of other projects that are essential to tackling California's intertwined housing and homelessness crisis, and delay can interfere with public funding windows and jeopardize projects.

SB 1344 would expand these procedural tools to also apply to projects funded by the Community Care Expansion Program (CCE), the Behavioral Health Services Act, and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act, including Homekey+. These programs fund interim housing for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, adult and senior care facilities that serve elderly adults and people with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and other residential care facilities, including more than $1 billion in housing investments for veterans who have behavioral health challenges. […]

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/26/26 15:42:02

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1363
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Barbering and cosmetology

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes technical changes, statutory improvements, and policy reforms to the Barbering and Cosmetology Act (Act) in response to issues raised during the Legislature's sunset review of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board or BBC), including changes to the apprenticeship program, authority to issue establishment licenses to partnerships and limited liability companies, and extends the Board's sunset date by four years to January 1, 2031.

Assembly Amendments make various updates to facilitate implementation; specify that a cosmetology student may provide transcripts as evidence of completion of a course in cosmetology; clarify information that shall be included on a copy of an agreement between an apprentice program sponsor and local education agency; clarify that the remedial education program that is imposed in lieu of a first offense is in lieu of the fine for the first offense; and make other technical and conforming amendments.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Act to regulate and license cosmetologists, barbers, estheticians, electrologists, manicurists, and establishments. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 7301-7315)

2) Establishes the Board within the Department of Consumer Affairs (Department or DCA) to administer the Act through January 1, 2027. (BPC § 7303)

3) Requires a Board apprenticeship program to be conducted in compliance with the Shelley-Maloney Apprentice Labor Standards Act of 1939 according to apprenticeship standards approved by the administrator of apprenticeship. (BPC § 7333)

4) Authorizes the Board to license an apprentice in barbering, cosmetology, skin care, or nail care, or electrolysis, any person who has made application to the Board upon the proper form, has paid the required fee, and who meets the license qualifications, as specified. (BPC § 7334(a)(1), (b))

5) Authorizes any person, firm, or corporation desiring to operate an establishment to make an application to the Board for a license. (BPC § 7347)

6) Requires the Board to establish by regulation a schedule of administrative fines for violations that directly impact consumer safety. (BPC § 7407)

7) Requires the Board to establish by regulation a board-offered remedial education program, in lieu of a first offense of a health and safety violation. (7407.1(b)(1))

This bill:

1) Extends the Board's authority to administer the Act through January 1, 2031.

2) Specifies that it is unlawful for a partnership or limited liability company (LLC) to engage in the Board's regulated professions without a valid unexpired license issued by the Board.

3) Specify that a cosmetology student may provide transcripts as evidence of completion of a course in cosmetology.

4) Clarifies that an apprentice must be employed by the owner of a license establishment.

5) Defines who shall be known as an apprenticeship program sponsor, states the license types for which an apprenticeship program sponsor may administer an apprenticeship, and establishes applications requirements to be approved by the Board to administer an apprenticeship.

6) Requires an apprentice program sponsor to be approved by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards before being approved by the Board.

7) Establishes acts that are cause for revocation, suspension, or denial of Board approval to administer an apprenticeship.

8) Establishes violations that shall be considered egregious for the purpose of issuing citations and fines, including charging fees to participate in an apprenticeship, franchising approval status, improper wage payment practices, and other serious violations.

9) Requires an applicant for an apprenticeship in barbering, cosmetology, skin care, nail care, or electrolysis to submit a copy of the apprentice agreement that was entered into between the approved program sponsor and the apprentice to the Board for approval.

10) Establishes responsibilities that must be met by a Board approved apprentice trainer to maintain that approval.

11) Establishes responsibilities that must be met by an establishment that is approved by the Board to employ apprentice trainers to maintain that approval.

12) Provides that failure to comply with the Act and all laws and regulations applicable to apprenticeships by a trainer or the establishment owner is grounds for disciplinary action, citation and fines, and prohibition from hiring future apprentices.

13) Authorizes a partnership and LLC desiring to operate an establishment to make an application to the board for a license.

14) Specifies that failure of an establishment licensed to do business as a corporation or LLC state to be registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State after notice from the board shall result in the automatic suspension of the license by operation of law and creates a pathway to reinstate the license after providing proof of good standing with the Secretary of State to the Board.

15) Defines "federally recognized tribe," and “participating tribe,” for purposes of licensing under the Act.

16) Exempts tribes that apply for a license from remaining in good standing with the Secretary of State if the tribe's business is chartered under tribal or federal law.

17) Specifies that the Act does not infringe upon or diminish existing rights of federally recognized tribes as set forth in federal, state, or tribal law.

18) Declares that the state shall not regulate any activity within the jurisdiction of a federally recognized tribe.

19) Requires an establishment to be under the charge of a person licensed as a barber, cosmetologist, electrologist, esthetician, hairstylist, manicurist, or establishment at all times during which barbering, cosmetology, electrology, esthetics, hairstyling services, or manicuring are being performed in the establishment.

20) Clarifies that the remedial education program to be established by regulation in lieu of a first offense health and safety violation is a Board-approved program.

Background

Oversight Hearings and Sunset Review of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. The Board is responsible for licensing and regulating barbers, cosmetologists, estheticians, electrologists, manicurists, apprentices, hairstylists, and establishments through its authority vested in the Act. Each profession has its own scope of practice with some overlap in areas. Title protection is provided for the use of the terms “cosmetologist” and “barber” (BPC §§ 7320.3, 7320.4). The Act also regulates the specialty branches within the practice of cosmetology, including skin and nail care.

In March 2026, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of ten regulatory entities including the CBNM. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year.

Clean up and revision of BBC business requirements. The Board has historically issued establishment licenses to LLCs, but current statute is not clear if this business structure is allowed under the Act. SB 323 (Vargas, Chapter 419, Statutes of 2012) enacted the California Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act, which allows a business that is required to be licensed under the BPC to form as an LLC so long as the practice act specifically authorizes its licensees to form as an LLC (Corporations Code (CORP) § 17701.04 (b)). However, the Act does not authorize an establishment to form as an LLC.

Prior to the revisions to the limited liability company requirements, the Beverly-Killea Limited Liability Company Act prohibited domestic and foreign LLCs from rendering professional services in California. Professional services were defined as "any type of professional services which may be lawfully rendered only pursuant to a license, certification, or registration authorized by the Business and Professions Code, the Chiropractic Act, or the Osteopathic Act."

In 2004, Attorney General (AG) Opinion No. 04-103 concluded that, "A business that provides services requiring a license, certification, or registration pursuant to the BPC may conduct its activities as a limited liability company if the services rendered require only a nonprofessional, occupational license." Following the AG opinion, numerous DCA boards and bureaus that issued occupational licenses began issuing licenses to LLCs, including the BBC.

However, now that the question of whether "professional services" are being rendered is no longer a trigger and specific authority must be granted by the practice act regardless, DCA programs have systematically requested authority to issue licenses to LLCs through amendments to their practice acts, most recently, the Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Act and Household Movers Act by SB 814 (Roth, Chapter 508, Statutes of 2023).

Separately, many of the programs within DCA that issue licenses to corporations require the corporation to provide some form of information to demonstrate the corporation is in good standing with the SOS, whether it's the SOS identification

number, the statement of information, or a copy of the articles of incorporation as a condition precedent to licensure. Additionally, most of these programs automatically suspend a license when a licensee fails to remain in good standing with the SOS. It is unclear why the Board's corporations do not follow suit. This bill amends the Act to authorize the Board to continue issuing licenses to LLCs and partnerships. This bill also establishes that failure of an establishment licensed as a corporation or limited liability company to be registered and in good standing with the SOS shall result in automatic license suspension; creates a mechanism to reinstate a suspended license; authorizes the Board to issue an establishment license to federally recognized tribes; and exempts those tribes from meeting the SOS registration requirement when their business is chartered under tribal or federal law.

Apprenticeships. The Board offers apprenticeships as an alternative pathway to licensure outside the traditional classroom education and training, which can be cost prohibitive for many students. The Legislature has evaluated multiple issues stemming from the apprenticeship program over previous sunset reviews, such as the quality of training received, the low examination pass rates of apprentices, and whether apprentices should be paid for their services while learning. The number of apprenticeship programs has increased significantly in the past number of years. A contributing factor is thought to be that apprenticeship programs do not have to be approved as schools and therefore, are not required to undergo the Bureau for Private Post-Secondary Education approval process.

LAB § 3075.1 states the position of the Legislature as a matter of a practical form of training when it serves public interest, "It is the public policy of this state to encourage the utilization of apprenticeship as a form of on-the-job training, when such training is cost-effective in developing skills needed to perform public services." However, the Board has concerns about the current state of apprenticeships and the barriers that they are currently presenting.

The Board issued a *Report on the Status of the Apprenticeship Program*, which identifies several areas of concern, which demonstrate opportunities for improvement to the current apprentice program. The Board submitted multiple legislative requests to implement significant reforms to the apprenticeship program focused on enhancing enforcement to improve the learning experience for apprentices, decrease costs to apprentices, increase the likelihood of successful outcomes, and increase compliance with the Act and Labor Code. This bill makes significant reforms to the Board's apprenticeship program by requiring trainers and apprenticeship program sponsors to apply for approval, establishing responsibilities for trainers and establishments, and authorizing the Board to take

disciplinary action or cite and fine when appropriate. These amendments provide guardrails that are intended to protect apprentices from exploitation, improve outcomes, and increase compliance with the Act and the Labor Code.

Continued regulation by the Board. As an organization, the Board functions well, meets performance metrics used to evaluate regulatory agency effectiveness, and lacks many of the structural problems that other boards face, such as issues regarding fiscal solvency. This bill extends Board operations by four years to January 1, 2031.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

Ongoing annual costs of approximately $22 million (Barbering and Cosmetology Contingent Fund) to support 93 positions for the continued operation of the Board's licensing and enforcement activities beyond the January 1, 2027, sunset date. This fund is fully self-supporting with fee revenue. The Board anticipates ongoing, absorbable annual costs of approximately $130,000 (special fund). These costs include $85,000 to administer the Remedial Education Program and track enrollment, completion, and compliance, and $45,000 related to Attorney General usage. The Board will be able to initiate and process revocations involving high-level enforcement support, including investigation and case prep, Attorney General handling, and post-hearing compliance. The Board anticipates additional absorbable costs related to regulatory updates which the Board cannot yet quantify. The Board estimates ongoing revenue of $8,000 (special fund) from a new license type, "Apprenticeship Program Sponsor." The Board indicates the fee amount for the new license type has not been identified but estimates a fee of $250 and anticipates receiving 32 applications. Renewal will occur every two years. The Department of Consumer Affair's Office of Information Services estimates one-time, absorbable costs of $70,000 to build a new "apprenticeship program sponsor" license type for the Board.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Board of Barbering and Cosmetology

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. /
8/24/26 17:23:55

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1368
Author: Wahab (D)
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dispensers

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill extends the operations of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (Board) until January 1, 2031, and makes various conforming changes to the regulation of licensed and registered professionals by the Board stemming from the joint sunset review oversight process for the Board.

Assembly Amendments make various technical changes to improve Board operations and the enforcement of the Act.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers Licensure Act (Act) for the purposes of regulating speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing aid dispensers. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 2530 et.seq.)

This bill:

1) Makes various changes to the Act in response to issues raised during the SLPAHAD's sunset review oversight process including:

   a) Provides the Board with statutory authority to establish a retired license category.
   b) Makes statutory clarifications to enhance Board oversight of continuing education providers and continuing professional development providers.
   c) Makes technical changes that improve the Board operations and the enforcement of the Act.
   d) Extends the Board operations to January 1, 2031.

Background

The SPLAB (formerly a committee) was created in 1973 and enacted in 1974 under the jurisdiction of the MBC. SPLAB was restored to a board with the passage of AB 124 (Ackerman, Chapter 436, Statutes of 1999) in 1999, effective January 1, 2000. In 2009, (AB 1535, Chapter 309, Statues of 2009) merged the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau into the SPLAB to create the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (SLPAHADB or Board) effective January 1, 2010.

The Board's mandate is to protect the public by licensing and regulating the Speech-Language Pathologist, Audiologists, and Hearing Aid Dispensers, which are three separate professions, each with individual scopes of practice, entry-level requirements, and professional settings. The Board sets entry level licensing standards, examination requirements, ensures consumer protection, and enforces standards of professional conduct by investigating applicant backgrounds, and complaints against licensed and unlicensed practitioners, while taking disciplinary action whenever appropriate.

The Board licenses and regulates more than 44,800 individuals and entities. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Speech Language Pathologist profession is expected to grow by 15 percent, the Audiologist profession by 9 percent and the Hearing Aid Dispenser profession by 18 percent from 2024-2034.

The Board is responsible for regulating the following licensing types and categories:

- Speech-Language Pathologist - provide assessment and therapy for individuals who have speech, language, swallowing, and voice disorders.

- Audiologist - identify hearing, auditory system, and balance disorders, and provide rehabilitative services, including hearing aids and other assistive listening devices.

- Dispensing Audiologist – licensed to perform the duties of an Audiologist as described above and authorized to sell hearing aids.

- Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) – registered paraprofessionals who complete formal education and training and serve under the direction of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist.

- Required Professional Experience Temporary License - speech-language pathology and audiology applicants completing required professional experience to qualify for full licensure, practicing under the supervision of a licensed practitioner.

- Speech-Language Pathology Aide – support personnel approved to work directly under the supervision of a Speech-Language Pathologist. No requirement for formal education and training, but on-the-job training must be provided.

- Audiology Aide - support personnel approved to work under the supervision of a licensed Audiologist. No requirement for formal education and training, but on-the-job training must be provided.

- Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology Temporary License – Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, licensed in another state, who qualifies for a six-month license while seeking permanent licensure.

- Hearing Aid Dispenser – licensed to fit and sell hearing aids, take ear mold impressions, postfitting procedures, and directly observe the ear and test hearing in connection with the fitting and selling hearing aids.

- Hearing Aid Dispenser Temporary License – Hearing Aid Dispenser, licensed in another state, who qualifies for a 12-month temporary license while seeking permanent licensure.

- Hearing Aid Dispenser Trainee License – allows a Hearing Aid Dispenser trainee applicant to work under the supervision of a licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser for up to 18 months.

- Branch License – licenses issued to Hearing Aid Dispensers authorizing the dispenser to work at additional branch locations.

Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 2531.02 states that the protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions

Oversight Hearings and Sunset Review of Licensing Boards and Programs. In March 2026, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of 10 regulatory entities including the Board. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by the Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year. The following are selected issues pertaining to the Board along with background information concerning the issue.

Retired License. In 2016, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed AB 2859 (Low, Chapter 473, Statutes of 2016) which permitted any of the boards within DCA to establish a retired category of licensure for people not actively engaged in their practice. Each board would need to do this through the regulatory process. BPC § 464 prohibits a retired license holder from practicing unless the board specifies, through regulation, the criteria for a retired license to practice.

Current law does not authorize the Board to issue a retired license which it requests authority to do. According to the Board, licensees have requested to be placed in a retired status instead of having to renew their license or have their license expire at a specified time before it can be cancelled. Licensees were failing their CPD audits because they had professionally retired and should have been in an inactive status but continued to renew, either because they were unaware of the inactive status or made a mistake on their renewal form.

The Board states that creation of this license would require a one-time fee and would provide a means for a retired licensee to return to active status under certain circumstances. The Board would also like to ensure that any retired license creation covers the following:

- A retired license cannot be issued if the licensee is currently holding a license that is restricted or if they have outstanding citations and fines or if they are currently under investigation for an active complaint or conviction

- The license cannot be reinstated to active if the individual has been out of practice for a specified number of years

- The licensee is limited to a certain number of times that a license can be reinstated from retired to active

This bill will provide the Board statutory authority to establish a retired license category.

Oversight of Continuing Education Providers and Continuing Professional Development Providers. The Board highlighted the need for statutory clarifications to ensure robust oversight of CE, CPD, and CE/CPD providers. Specifically, the Board would like to:

- Clarify that both the national and California chapters of professional organizations qualify as approved and exempt CE providers

- Allow mandatory training courses be either state, federal, or local government entities that cover professional issues that impact the provision of services to qualify as CE

- Allow Speech-Language Pathology Assistants to meet their CPD requirements through the same course providers as their supervisors are allowed

- Prohibit Speech-Languge Pathology Assistants from using coursework required by a master's degree for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist towards their CPD requirement, as a master's level course is intended to prepare an individual for a different professional role, not expand the knowledge of practicing as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

CE courses and CPD providers are reviewed and approved by the Board for compliance under the regulations governing CE course content and CPD provider applications. Subject matter experts may provide guidance, if needed, with course content. The American Speech-Language Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, or the California Medical Association's Institute for Medical Quality Continuing Medical Education are accepted by the Board through statutory authority as CPD providers. The Board suggests that licensees are not often paying close attention to the CPD approval status of course providers and clarification could benefit those taking coursework.

This bill will make statutory clarifications to enhance Board oversight of CE providers and CPD providers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, it costs approximately $3.4 million per year to continue the operation of the Board. The Board also identified an increase in revenue as follows: $7,200 from 96 applications in 2026-27, $16,650 from 222 applications in 2027-28, and $30,225 from 403 applications annually thereafter. The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Information Services anticipates absorbable costs to perform Americans with Disabilities Act compliance checks; post retired-status paper applications for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and dispensing audiologists to the board's website and to create a new "retired" license status for these license types; develop functionality to allow a licensee to restore a retired license back to active status; and update DCA Search to display the new status.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Speech Language Hearing Association
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board writes in support, "This bill will ensure that the Board is able to continue its important consumer protection work for the four years. This bill would clarify and expand the types of acceptable continuing professional development for speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and audiologists for purposes of licensure renewal. This bill would provide new guardrails preventing aides, assistants, and trainees from independently operating businesses, thus enhancing public safety by ensuring only fully licensed professionals provide clinical services. This bill would also provide a clear pathway for experienced professionals to exit or re-enter their practice responsibly with the addition of retired license provisions. Together, these changes promote public protection while aligning the Board's Practice Act with current technology, education, and service-delivery models."

The California Speech Language Hearing Association (CSHA) notes support stating, "CHSA supports the continued licensing and regulation by the Speech Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board and appreciates the outreach and communication of the Board and the ongoing efforts by Board leadership and staff to engage with the important work of regulating the profession and protecting consumers."

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/24/26 17:31:49

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1374
Author: Niello (R), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 3/24/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Gonzalez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Restraining orders: educational institutions

SOURCE: California State University, Office of the Chancellor

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a chief administrative officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or a designated officer or employee, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the institution in order to maintain order on the school campus or facility which is subject to unlawful

violence or a credible threat of violence directed towards the postsecondary educational institution.

Assembly Amendments requires the Judicial Council, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt or modify forms, as specified, make the provisions of the bill operative on July 1, 2029, and make chaptering out amendments.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines the following relevant terms:
   a) "Chief administrative officer" means the principal, president, or highest-ranking official of a postsecondary educational institution.
   b) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose, including (1) following or stalking to or from school; (2) entering the school campus or facility; (3) following a student during school hours; (4) making telephone calls to a student; and (5) sending correspondence to a student by any means.
   c) "Credible threat of violence" means a knowing and willful statement or course of conduct that would place a reasonable person in fear for their safety, or the safety of their immediate family, and that serves no legitimate purpose.
   d) "Petitioner" means the chief administrative officer, or their designee, who files a petition under 2).
   e) "Postsecondary educational institution" means an institution of vocational, professional, or postsecondary education.
   f) "Respondent" means the person against whom the temporary restraining order and order after hearing are sought and, if the petition is granted, the restrained person.
   g) "Student" means an adult currently enrolled in or applying for admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
   h) "Temporary restraining order" and "order after hearing" mean orders that include any of the following restraining orders, whether issued ex parte, or after notice and hearing:
      i. An order enjoining a party from harassing, intimidating, molesting, attacking, striking, stalking, threatening, sexually assaulting, battering, abusing, telephoning, including making annoying telephones as defined, destroying personal property, contacting (directly or

indirectly), or coming within a specified distance of, or disturbing the peace of, the student.

ii. An order enjoining a party from specified behavior that the court determines is necessary to effectuate orders described in (g)(i).

i) "Unlawful violence" means any assault or battery, or stalking as defined, but does not include lawful acts of self-defense or defense of others. (Code of Civil Procedure (Code Civ. Proc.) § 527.85(b).)

2) Permits a chief executive officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or an officer or employee designated by the chief executive officer, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the student, as follows:
   a) The student must have suffered a credible threat of violence made off the school campus or facility from any individual which can reasonably be construed to be carried out or to have been carried out at the school campus or facility.
   b) The chief executive officer or their designee must obtain the written consent of the student.
   c) The chief executive officer or their designee may, at the discretion of the court, seek a temporary order or order after hearing on behalf of any other students at the campus or facility who are similarly situated.
   d) The court may not issue a temporary restraining order or order after hearing prohibiting speech or other activities that are constitutionally protected.
   e) In the discretion of the court, for good cause shown, a temporary restraining order or order after hearing may include other named family or household members of the student, or other students at the campus or facility. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(a), (c), (d).)

3) Establishes procedures and timelines for obtaining a temporary restraining order or order after hearing under 2), as provided. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(e)-(k), (m), (o), (p).)

4) Provides that a person who is subject to a protective order issued under 3) cannot own, possess, receive, purchase, receive, or attempt to purchase or receive a firearm or ammunition while the protective order is in effect. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.9.)
   a) The court shall order a person subject to a protective order to relinquish any firearms or ammunition they own or possess pursuant to the provisions set forth in Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.9.

b) Any person who owns, possesses, purchases, or receives, or attempts to purchase or receive, a firearm or ammunition while the protective order is in effect is punishable as a crime. (Penal Code § 29825.)

5) Provides that nothing in 2) through 4) prevents either party from representation by private counsel or from appearing on their own behalf. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(l).)

This bill:

1) Permits a chief executive officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or an officer or employee designated by the chief executive officer, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the institution, and at the discretion of the court, any property of the campus or facility which are owned by the institution.

2) Expands the definition of "course of conduct" to include making telephone calls to the school campus or facility and sending correspondence to a chief administrative officer by any means, including, but not limited to, the use of public or private mails, interoffice mail, facsimile, or computer email.

3) Provides that a "temporary restraining order" and "order after hearing" may include an order enjoining a party from: harassing; intimidating; attacking; striking; stalking; threatening; telephoning, including, but not limited to, making annoying telephone calls as defined; destroying property; contacting, either directly or indirectly, by mail or otherwise; or coming within a specified distance of a school campus or facility.

4) Requires the Judicial Council, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt or modify forms, as specified.

5) Make the provisions of the bill operative on July 1, 2029.

6) Makes clarifying changes and chaptering out amendments.

Comments

A 2025 report from the Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center (HSOAC) shows campus crime at institutions of higher education across the U.S. has returned to pre- COVID-19 pandemic levels. The sponsor and author of this bill note that threats can cause disruptions during key academic deadlines, such as

during finals or midterm exams. For example, in 2018 California State University, Northridge (CSUN) received alleged threats to campus during finals week in December, which resulted in alternative arrangements needing to be made that did not require students to be on campus during finals week.[1] In February of this year, California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) received an anonymous call alleging that someone was going to shoot people at the school and blow themselves up, which led to fear and panic for the campus community and a campus-wide lockdown that asked staff and students to shelter in place.[2] According to the author and sponsor, a troubling incident that occurred at San Diego State University (SDSU) highlights why this bill is needed. They report:

> In March 2024, Student A began posting on SDSU-restricted online platforms. These posts contained violent, sexual, and concerning content and were forwarded to University Police Department (UPD) by a student. UPD's Threat Management Team (TMT) was notified, and monitoring began. Additionally, coordination with local law enforcement for monitoring began. In 2025, SDSU worked with the FBI on the case, as the student was serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Since the threats were not specifically directed at an individual student or employee at SDSU, [SDSU] did not have the ability to have a long-term restraining order issued against the student. The student was suspended from SDSU, and the suspension was upheld. And in SDSU's experience, the District Attorney and City Attorney do not always request a criminal restraining order even when specifically asked to include it as part of the prosecution.

In the example above no specific student or employee was targeted—but the campus generally— and therefore SDSU was unable to use existing Code of Civil Procedure Sections 527.8 or 527.85 to obtain a restraining order against the former student from entering campus.

In 2009, the Legislature enacted SB 188 (Runner, Chapter 566, Statutes of 2009), which allowed the chief executive officer of a private postsecondary educational institution to seek a protective order---including a temporary restraining order or an order after hearing—on behalf of a student who has experienced an off-campus threat of on-campus violence.[3] The bill originated from a school at which a former student was harassing current students; the school was told that there was no way for the school to obtain a protective order for the campus as a whole, and that it instead would have to seek 375 separate protective orders to prevent the former

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[1] CSUN, *Updates in Response to Threats to Campus,* available at https://www.csun.edu/president/news/updates-response-threats-campus.
[2] CSUB, Instagram, (Feb. 2, 2026), available at https://www.instagram.com/p/DURkJ7jgTvQ/?hl=en.
[3] *See* Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85.

student from entering the campus.[4] The bill was modeled after existing provisions allowing an employer to seek a protective order on behalf of an employee who suffered a credible threat of violence that could be construed to be carried out at the workplace.[5]

The protective order provision established in SB 188 is more limited in scope than protective order regimes that allow the victim themselves to seek an order. A chief executive officer may file a petition on behalf of a student only if the student suffered a credible threat of violence made off-campus and the threat can be reasonably construed to be carried out, or to have been carried out, on campus.[6] In other words, an officer cannot seek a protective order on behalf of a student for any harassment the student might be suffering; the officer is limited to seeking a protective order in response to a credible threat of violence that could occur on the campus or facility. Additionally, an officer may not seek an order on behalf of an unwilling student—the officer must obtain the written consent of the student before seeking a protective order.[7] A person subject to a temporary restraining order or injunction under these provisions is required to relinquish firearms and ammunition under Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.9.

In 2024, these provisions were expanded to include public institutions in AB 2096 (Petrie-Norris, Chapter 947, Statutes of 2024). AB 2096 also expanded the conduct under which a restraining order can be sought to include unlawful violence.

The procedure for obtaining a protective order under this provision is also slightly more permissive towards the respondent than, say, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA). A respondent may obtain a continuance of the hearing for a reasonable time to respond to the petition as a matter of course.[8] A protective order issued after hearing may run for only three years initially, rather than the five years permitted under the DVPA.[9] The scope of a protective order, however, is similar to those permitted under other regimes; a respondent may be prohibited from engaging in a range of activity to harass or intimidate the subject of the order, and, consistent with other protective order regimes, a respondent is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition for the duration of the order.[10]

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[4] Sen. Com. on Judiciary, Analysis of SB 188 (2009-2010 Reg. Sess.) as introduced, p. 1.
[5] *See* Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8.
[6] *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(a).
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(o)
[9] *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(k).
[10] *Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.85(b); *see Id.*, Code Civ. Proc., § 527.9.

This bill, effective January 1, 2029, expands the existing provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.85 to authorize a chief administrative officer of a postsecondary educational institution, or a designated officer or employee, to seek a temporary restraining order and an order after a hearing on behalf of the institution itself in order to maintain order on the school campus or facility when it is subject to unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence towards the campus.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California State University, Office of the Chancellor (source)
Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
San Diego State University
The California Baptist Capito Ministry
University of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

> SB 1374 empowers higher education institutions to provide safer communities by providing an additional preemptive measure to deter threats by permitting restraining orders on behalf of the institution itself when threats are made towards a campus. This bill will provide a crucial tool to ensure institutions are able to maintain safe learning environments.
>
> When institutions are targeted with threats, the resulting lockdowns, disruptions, and fear undermine students' ability to learn and faculty's ability to teach. SB 1374 will help campuses maintain a safe, stable environment by allowing them to seek timely court orders that can deter or restrict dangerous conduct before it reaches the classroom, residence hall, or campus event.
>
> Campus leaders are responsible for safeguarding thousands of students, faculty, and staff, yet under existing law they lack clear standing to obtain civil protective orders when the institution itself is the target. SB 1374 provides a clear, court supervised mechanism to intervene early, before threats escalate into acts of violence on campus.

The California State University, Office of the Chancellor, source of this bill, writes:

> The California State University (CSU) is pleased to sponsor and support Senate Bill 1374 […] While current law allows institutions to seek restraining orders on behalf of students or an employee who receives threats, it does not clearly authorize institutions to seek similar protection when threats are directed at the institution itself.

In a time of increasing threats and harassment aimed at universities and other institutions, the gap in current law limits CSU's ability to respond swiftly and effectively. By authorizing chief administrative officers to seek restraining orders on behalf of the institution, SB 1374 ensures that institutions and the courts can intervene when unlawful violence or credible threats target the broader campus community. This bill serves as a critical preemptive measure by allowing institutions to intervene at the point of credible threats or escalating harassment before conduct turns into physical violence, unlawful acts, or irreversible harm to students, staff, or campus operations.

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/26/26 15:11:42

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1393
Author: McGuire (D)
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes multiple changes to the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, revises and extends the sunset on the steelhead trout fishing report-restoration card (steelhead report card) until January 1, 2032, as provided.

Assembly Amendments retain existing law for the steelhead report card fee, set the base fee for the steelhead report card nonreturn fee to $20 for the 2028 license year, revise the information required in the steelhead trout report card legislative report, change the sunsets for the Dungeness crab fishery provisions to January 1, 2037, revise the process for providing funding from the Dungeness Crab Account

to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, revise the requirements for the transiting of closed waters with Dungeness crab onboard, and make various minor and conforming changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) and the California Fish and Game Commission (commission) in the California Natural Resources Agency. In general, the department implements and enforces the regulations set by the commission, as well as providing biological data and expertise to inform the commission's decision-making process.

2) Authorizes a commercial fisher participating in eviscerated crab fishery authorized by the department director in an otherwise closed area due to public health risks to transit closed waters if the vessel adheres to electronic monitoring requirements specified by the department (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §5523(a)(3)).

3) Establishes the risk assessment and management program (RAMP) for the Dungeness crab fishery (FGC §8276.1), authorizes the department director to delay the start of the Dungeness crab fishery for specified reasons (FGC §8276.2), and creates the Dungeness crab task force (DCTF) to review, evaluate and make recommendations about the fishery, among other provisions applicable to the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as provided. Sunsets the RAMP on January 1, 2030. Makes inoperative the department director's authority to delay the start of the fishery and the DCTF on April 1, 2029 and sunsets them on January 1, 2030.

4) Authorizes a vessel to transit state waters with Dungeness crab traps that are not tagged with California tags if the traps contain either a valid Oregon or Washington trap tag, no crab species are onboard the vessel, and the traps are not deployed in state waters (FGC §8276.5(a)(4)).

5) Authorizes the department director to open waters that are otherwise restricted for the commercial take of Dungeness crab or rock crab for public health reasons during a time period that the Department of Public Health authorizes the manufacture and sale of eviscerated Dungeness crab or rock crab, as provided, in accordance with the following requirements:
   a) The vessel is required to submit to electronic monitoring of the vessel when engaged in take of the crab species in order to verify location.

b) Prohibits a person from taking, possessing, or landing Dungeness crab or rock crab under an evisceration order on the same trip in which the Dungeness crab or rock crab are taken, possessed, or landed from waters outside where the evisceration order is in effect.
c) Authorizes a person taking Dungeness crab or rock crab to sell or provide the crab only to a licensed processor, as provided.
d) Requires the processor to identify on the fish ticket that the crabs were taken from an area under an evisceration order (FGC §8285).

6) Requires the department director, when the evisceration order is lifted, to lift restrictions in a manner to promote a fair and orderly fishery (FGC §8285).

7) Requires a person taking steelhead in inland waters to have a valid California sportfishing license and a valid nontransferable steelhead trout fishing report-restoration card. Requires the cardholder to record certain fishing information on the card, as specified, and return it to the department, as provided. Authorizes the commission to adopt necessary regulations to implement this section. Specifies the report card fee is $5 for the 2004 year. Authorizes annual adjustments via indexing to the fee, as specified (FGC §7380).

8) Authorizes revenue raised by the report card, upon legislative appropriation, to be expended to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead trout resources, and to administer the program, as provided. Requires a legislative report providing information about the steelhead report card program on or before July 1, 2025, as specified. (FGC §7381).

9) Sunsets the steelhead report card provisions on January 1, 2027. (FGC §7382).

This bill:

1) Extends the sunset on various commercial Dungeness crab fishery sections, including the RAMP, 10 years to January 1, 2037. Extends the inoperative date and the sunset on various other commercial Dungeness crab fishery sections, including the authorization for the department director to delay the opening and the DCTF, 7-2/3s years to January 1, 2037, and 8 years to January 1, 2038, respectively.

2) Authorizes crab species to be on board a vessel transiting state waters when the vessel contains crab traps without a California tag and with a Washington or Oregon tag on them and the traps are not deployed in state waters, and when all the requirements of 5) below are met.

3) Requires the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSFMC) with funding from the Dungeness Crab Account (Account), as provided. Requires the DCTF, on or before December 31, 2027, and by December 31 annually thereafter, to develop and submit a spending plan for the moneys provided to the PSMFC. Makes these provisions inoperative on January 1, 2037, and repeals them on January 1, 2038.

4) Requires the amount remaining in the Account after certain allocations are made and if there is a prudent reserve to be made available to the Legislature for appropriation to the PSFMC per 3) above, as provided.

5) Authorizes a vessel to transit certain closed waters with Dungeness crab traps and Dungeness crab onboard if all of the following conditions are met:
   a) Requires the vessel to submit a notice of intent to the department at least 72 hours before entering the closed area. Requires the notice to include the vessel's name and permit number, the name and phone number of the vessel operator and owner, the port of landing and fish business to deliver to, the requested start and end time and date of closed area transit, and any other information prescribed by the department, as provided.
   b) Requires the vessel to maintain continuous transit through the closed waters and to possess and operate a fully operational electronic monitoring system during the closed area transit. Requires all gear to be secured so no traps are rendered unusable.
   c) Requires the department to provide a notification procedure for a vessel experiencing mechanical issues during transit.
   d) Defines continuous transit to mean transiting through a closed area as close to a direct route without stopping or delaying and maintaining at least a speed of 3 knots at all times.
   e) Sunsets this provision on January 1, 2037 and repeals it on January 1, 2038.

6) Requires the department to assess a late or non-return fee of someone who does not return a steelhead report card by the date established by the department. Prohibits the department from selling a steelhead report card for a subsequent year until the late non-return fee is paid in full.
   a) The base fee for the late or non-return fee is $20 for the 2028 license year and is authorized to be adjusted annually, as provided.
   b) Revenues from the late or non-return fee shall be treated the same as steelhead report card fees, as provided.
   c) The department or commission is prohibited from waiving the late or non-return fee.

7) Adds a legislative report providing information about the steelhead report card program on or before July 1, 2030, as specified.

8) Extends the sunset on the steelhead report card program five years to January 1, 2032.

9) Makes various minor technical and conforming changes, and provides that no reimbursement is required for local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state, as specified.

[NOTE: Additional background and information about this bill may be found in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee analysis.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

Ongoing costs and revenue impacts [General Fund, Fish and Game Preservation Fund (FGPF)] of an unknown amount for CDFW to continue administering the steelhead report card program, implement and administer a late or nonreturn fee, update required legislative reporting, grant surplus funds from the Dungeness Crab Account to PSMFC, process vessel transit notices, and continue Dungeness crab fishery management activities, as described below.

Steelhead Report Card. A $20 late or nonreturn fee may increase revenue if anglers choose to pay the fee; however, if anglers opt out of paying the fee, revenue may not increase and may impact overall report card sales for the following season due to reduced sales from those opting out of the program.

Dungeness Crab Fishery. CDFW′s annual cost of administering the Dungeness crab fishery is about $1.1 million. Extending various sunsets dates related to this program means these costs will continue through 2037.

The provision in the bill allowing a vessel to transit waters closed to Dungeness crab fishing would result in additional workload for CDFW′s law enforcement division, as CDFW would need to monitor notices of intent as vessels transit through closed areas and develop a notification procedure for a vessel experiencing mechanical issues during transit. However, CDFW anticipates these costs to be absorbable within existing resources.

The bill will also result in the transfer of an unknown amount, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, of surplus funds in the Dungeness Crab Account to the PSMFC every two years. The Fish and Game Code establishes the Dungeness Crab Trap Limit Program (DCTLP). Revenues collected through the DCTLP are deposited in the Dungeness Crab Account, and the use of these funds is restricted to administration and enforcement of the DCTLP and supporting the administration and facilitation of the Task Force. As of FY 2023–24, the Dungeness Crab Account had an end-of-year balance of approximately $3 million. [Department of Finance] requires the account to maintain a reserve sufficient to cover CDFW′s two-year spending authority of $1.1 million. The surplus in the account was approximately $300,000, $1.3 million, and $800,000 at the end of FY 2021–22, FY 2022–23, and FY 2023–24, respectively. The Task Force, in its 2025 annual report, recommends surplus funds in the Dungeness Crab Account in excess of CDFW and the Task Force′s expenditures be provided to the PSMFC biannually for, among other things, gear retrieval programs, vessel surveys, applied research, and the testing or adoption of new technologies that enhance fishery operations and sustainability

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
California Trout
Crescent City Commercial Fishermen's Association
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association
Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
Salmon Trollers Marketing Association
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners' Association
The Nature Conservancy
Trout Unlimited

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/26)

California Department of Finance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "California's steelhead trout and Dungeness crab fisheries are cornerstones of California's natural heritage and economic lifelines for communities throughout the state. SB 1393 preserves the state management frameworks that have been essential to sustainably overseeing these fisheries and protecting marine ecosystems from entanglement risk. The bill also ensures that reliable data — not guesswork — drives decision-

making and determines how we allocate access and enforce laws. Fishermen, processors, and resource managers need clear and predictable rules around which they build their lives and livelihoods."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Department of Finance writing in opposition states "Finance is opposed to this bill, because it may be duplicative of regulations that the Fish and Game Commission is considering for the Steelhead Report Card Program and because it may limit CDFW's flexibility to spend the balance of the Dungeness Crab Account on state priorities."

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/25/26 13:04:36

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1401
Author: Stern (D)
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/14/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Criminal procedure: competence to stand trial

SOURCE: Family Advocates for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness of Sacramento

DIGEST: This bill 1) specifies timeframes for the dismissal of felony charges for a defendant who is incompetent to stand trial (IST) and referred to one of several specified programs; 2) authorizes a county behavioral health agency to share confidential medical records and other relevant information with the court for the purpose of determining eligibility for behavioral health services; and 3) allows the court to refer a misdemeanor IST defendant to the county conservatorship

investigator in the county of commitment for possible conservatorship proceedings if in its opinion the defendant appears to be gravely disabled.

Assembly Amendments apply the following changes to both the felony and misdemeanor IST statutes: (1) remove jail medical providers from the entities authorized to share confidential medical records with the court; and (2) prohibit the confidential information shared by a county behavioral health agency with the court from being used for any purpose other than determining eligibility for services and require the information to be placed under seal after the disposition of the case.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, if during the pendency of an action and prior to judgment, a doubt arises in the mind of the judge as to the mental competence of the defendant, the judge to state that doubt in the record and inquire of the attorney for the defendant whether, in the opinion of the attorney, the defendant is mentally competent. Requires the court, at the request of the defendant or defendant's counsel or upon its own motion, to recess the proceedings for as long as may be reasonably necessary to permit counsel to confer with the defendant and to form an opinion as to the mental competence of the defendant at that point in time. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 1368, subd. (a).)

2) Requires the court, if counsel informs the court that they believe the defendant is or may be mentally incompetent, to order that the question of the defendant's mental competence is to be determined. Authorizes the court, if counsel informs the court that they believe the defendant is mentally competent, to order a determination by the court of the defendant's mental competence. (Pen. Code, § 1368, subd. (b).)

3) Requires all proceedings in the criminal prosecution to be suspended when an inquiry into the present mental competence of the defendant has been commenced by the court until the question of the present mental competence of the defendant has been determined, except as provided. (Pen. Code, § 1368, subd. (c).)

4) Outlines the process by which the question of mental competence must proceed. (Pen. Code, § 1369.)

5) Provides that Section 1370 applies to a person who is charged with a felony or alleged to have violated the terms of probation for a felony or mandatory supervision and is incompetent as a result of a mental health disorder. Provides that Section 1370.01 applies to a person who is charged with a misdemeanor or misdemeanors only, or a violation of formal or informal probation for a misdemeanor, and the judge finds reason to believe that the defendant has a mental health disorder, and may, as a result of the mental health disorder, be incompetent to stand trial. (Pen. Code, § 1367, subd. (b).)

6) Requires the criminal process to resume, the trial on the offense charged or hearing on the alleged violation to proceed, and judgment to be pronounced if the defendant is found mentally competent. (Pen. Code, § 1370, (a)(1)(A).)

7) Requires the trial, the hearing on the alleged violation, or the judgment to be suspended, if the defendant is found mentally incompetent (and is not charged with an offense that would make the defendant ineligible for mental health diversion). Requires the court to do all of the following:

   a) Determine whether restoring the person to mental competence is in the interests of justice.

   b) If restoring the person to mental competence is in the interests of justice, the court must state its reasons orally on the record and the case shall proceed, as provided.

   c) If restoring the person to mental competence is not in the interests of justice, the court must conduct a mental health diversion hearing, and, if the court deems the defendant eligible, grant diversion for a period not to exceed two years from the date the individual is accepted into diversion or the maximum term of imprisonment provided by law for the most serious offense charged in the complaint, whichever is shorter. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (a)(1)(B)(i)-(iii).)

8) Defines "gravely disabled" to mean any of the following:

   a) A condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, a severe substance use disorder, or a co-occurring mental health disorder and a severe substance use disorder, is unable to provide for their basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, personal safety, or necessary medical care.

   b) A condition in which a person has been found IST under Penal Code section 1370 and all of the following facts exist: the complaint, indictment, or

information pending against the person at the time of commitment charges a felony involving death, great bodily harm, or a serious threat to the physical well-being of another person; there has been a finding of probable cause on a complaint, a preliminary examination, or a grand jury indictment, and the complaint, indictment, or information has not been dismissed; as a result of a mental health disorder, the person is unable to understand the nature and purpose of the proceedings taken against them and to assist counsel in the conduct of their defense in a rational manner; and the person represents a substantial danger of physical harm to others by reason of a mental disease, defect, or disorder. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 5008, subd. (h)(1).)

9) Requires the criminal process to resume, and the trial on the offense charged or hearing on the alleged violation to proceed if the defendant charged with a misdemeanor is found mentally competent. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (a)(1)(A).)

10) Requires, if the defendant is found mentally incompetent, the trial, judgment, or hearing on the alleged violation to be suspended and the court to, after notice to the defendant, defense counsel, and the prosecution, hold a hearing to determine whether to do one or more of the following:

    a) Conduct a hearing, and, if the court deems the defendant eligible and suitable, grant mental health diversion for a period not to exceed one year from the date the individual is accepted into diversion or the maximum term of imprisonment provided by law for the most serious offense charged in the misdemeanor complaint, whichever is shorter.

    b) Refer the defendant to the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act court, if the defendant or counsel for the defendant agrees to the referral and the court has reason to believe that the defendant may be eligible for the CARE program. If the defendant is accepted into the CARE program, the CARE Act court must notify the criminal court of the acceptance, and the charges must be dismissed six months after the date of the referral to the CARE program, unless the defendant's case has been referred back to the court prior to the expiration of that six-month time period. If the defendant is not accepted into the CARE program or if the CARE Act court refers the defendant back to criminal court before the expiration of the six-month time period, the court shall grant mental health diversion is the defendant eligible and suitable. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (b).)

11) Requires the court, if it finds the defendant ineligible or unsuitable for mental health diversion after notice to the defendant, defense counsel, and the prosecution, to hold a hearing to determine which one of the following actions the court will take:

    a) Order modification of an existing mental health diversion treatment plan in accordance with a recommendation from the treatment provider.

    b) Refer the defendant to assisted outpatient treatment.

    c) Refer the defendant to the county conservatorship investigator in the county of commitment for possible conservatorship proceedings. Provides that a defendant shall only be referred to the conservatorship investigator if, based on the opinion of a qualified mental health expert, the defendant appears to be gravely disabled, as defined.

    d) Refer the defendant to the CARE Act court.

    e) If the defendant does not qualify for any of the above services, dismiss the charges. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (c).)

12) States that it is the intent of the Legislature that a misdemeanor IST defendant receive mental health treatment in a treatment facility and not a jail. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (d).)

13) Authorizes the county behavioral health agency and jail medical providers to share confidential medical records and other relevant information with the court, including, but not limited to, prior interactions with and treatment of the defendant, for the purpose of determining likelihood of eligibility for behavioral health services and programs pursuant to this section. Specifies that the disclosure of information is subject to applicable state and federal privacy laws. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (e).)

14) States it is the intent of the Legislature that the court consider all treatment options as provided in this section prior to dismissing criminal charges. Specifies that nothing in Section 1370.01 limits a court's discretion to dismiss charges pursuant to Section 1385. (Pen. Code, § 1370.01, subd. (g).)

This bill:

1) Makes changes to the provisions of law that pertain to felony defendants who are IST and ineligible for mental health diversion.

2) Requires, for a defendant referred to assisted outpatient treatment, that the charges are dismissed six months after the date of the referral to assisted outpatient treatment, unless the defendant's case is referred back to the court before the expiration of that time period. Specifies that this does not alter the confidential nature of assisted outpatient treatment.

3) Requires, for a defendant referred to the county conservatorship investigator, that if the conservatorship proceedings result in the filing of a petition for the establishment of a temporary or permanent conservatorship, the charges are dismissed 90 days after the date of the filing of the petition, unless the case is referred back to the court before the expiration of that time period. Specifies that this does not alter the confidential nature of conservatorship proceedings.

4) Requires, for a defendant referred to CARE court and accepted into the CARE program, the CARE Act court must notify the criminal court of the acceptance, and the charges are dismissed six months after the date of the referral to the CARE program, unless the case is referred back to the court before the expiration of that time period. Specifies that this does not alter the confidential nature of CARE program proceedings, except as otherwise provided.

5) Authorizes a county behavioral health agency to share confidential medical records and other relevant information with the court, including, but not limited to, prior interactions with and treatment of the defendant, for the purpose of determining eligibility for behavioral health services. Provides that the disclosure of information is subject to applicable state and federal privacy laws.

6) Allows for a misdemeanor IST defendant, the court to refer the defendant to the county conservatorship investigator in the county of commitment for possible conservatorship proceedings if in its opinion the defendant appears to be gravely disabled, as defined.

Background

Both Penal Code sections 1370 (felony IST) and 1370.01 (misdemeanor IST) require the dismissal of charges if the defendant is referred and accepted to assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) or CARE court, or placed under conservatorship. While Penal Code section 1370.01 specifies the timeframe for the dismissal of

charges to occur (e.g., 6 months after the date of referral to AOT, 90 days after the date of the filing of the petition for the establishment of conservatorship, etc.), Penal Code section 1370 does not explicitly state the timelines for the dismissal of charges. This bill addresses that by amending Penal Code section 1370 to include the same timelines for dismissals as contained in Section 1307.01.

This bill also amends Penal Code section 1370 to allow a county behavioral health agency to share confidential medical records and other relevant information with the court, including, but not limited to, prior treatment interactions with the defendant, for the purpose of determining eligibility for behavioral health services. This language is codified in Penal Code section 1370.01.

Finally, this bill allows the court to refer a misdemeanor IST defendant to the county conservatorship investigator in the county of commitment for possible conservatorship proceedings if in its opinion the defendant appears to be gravely disabled. This language mirrors language in Penal Code section 1370 that authorizes the court to make the referral.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

Trial court cost pressures of up to $600,000 annually (Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF), General Fund (GF)), according to the Judicial Council, for additional hearings resulting from cases referred back to the criminal court before dismissal. Replacing dismissal at the point of acceptance or petition filing with dismissal after a six-month or 90-day waiting period keeps felony criminal cases open on court calendars during those periods and creates a category of cases that may be referred back to the criminal court for further proceedings. A case referred back requires additional appearances and may require reinstatement of competency proceedings, appointment of experts, and a further competency determination. The Judicial Council notes that the estimate depends heavily on how often cases are actually referred back, because the referral provision is permissive. A comparable mechanism exists for misdemeanor cases, and referrals back to court are not common in that context; the Judicial Council observes that referrals may occur more regularly under this bill given the focus on felonies. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the TCTF may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the GF. The state budget provides annual GF backfills to the TCTF to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in 2025-26.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Family Advocates for Individuals With Serious Mental Illness of Sacramento (source)
California District Attorneys Association
California State Association of Psychiatrists
National Alliance on Mental Illness- California
Riverside County District Attorney

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

ACLU California Action
Disability Rights California
Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union, Local 148

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 15:22:19

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1410
Author: Limón (D)
Amended: 6/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Becker, Niello, Laird, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Adult community care facilities: email address of record

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: Requires an applicant or licensee of an adult community care facility to provide written notification to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) of an email address of record or of any change to the email address of record within 12 business days, rather than 10 business days.

Assembly Amendments of 6/17/26 make conforming changes to impose the same 12-day written notification requirement upon an applicant or licensee of a residential care facility and an applicant or licensee of a residential care facility for the elderly.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the California Community Care Facilities Act. Defines "community care facility" as a facility providing nonmedical residential care, day treatment, adult daycare, and foster family agency services, among others. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 1500 et seq.)

2) Prohibits a person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation within the state, and a state or local public agency from operating, establishing, managing, conducting, or maintaining a community care facility without a current valid license. (HSC § 1508)

3) Requires CDSS to inspect and license community care facilities. (HSC § 1509)

4) Requires an applicant or licensee of an adult community care facility to maintain an email address of record with CDSS. Requires the applicant or licensee to provide written notification to CDSS of the email address and of any change to the email address within 10 business days of the change. (HSC § 1509.56; HSC § 1509.6)

5) Defines "adult community care facility" as an adult residential facility. Defines an adult residential facility as any facility of any capacity that provides 24-hour-a-day nonmedical care and supervision to the following:

   a) Persons 18 years of age through 59 years of age; and

   b) Persons 60 years of age and older only in accordance with acceptance and retention limitations regulations. (22 California Code of Regulations [CCR] § 80001(a)(4); 22 CCR § 80001(a)(5))

6) Provides that an adult residential facility licensee shall not accept or retain the following:

   a) Persons with prohibited health conditions, as specified.

   b) Persons who require inpatient care in a health facility.

   c) Persons who have needs that are in conflict with the needs of other clients or the program of services offered.

   d) Persons who require more care and supervision than is provided by the facility.

e) Any person whose primary need is acute psychiatric care due to a mental disorder. (22 CCR § 85068.4(a))

7) Requires an adult residential facility licensee to notify CDSS, in writing, within 30 days of a change of administrator. (22 CCR § 85061)

This bill revises the requirement for an applicant or licensee of an adult community care facility, residential care facility, or residential care facility for the elderly to provide written notification to CDSS of the email address of record and of any change to the email address of record within 12 business days of the change.

Background

Purpose of this Bill. The author notes that licensees are appropriately required to update contact information when facilities change ownership or management. Current law requires those updates at varying intervals, from 10 to 30 days. For a new email address, which may be tied to personnel changes or administrative structural changes within an organization, identifying the correct contact may take more than 10 days. For that reason, the author proposes allowing two additional days to update this information. The author notes that state licensing officials still may contact the facility by telephone or in person if an email is invalid during the short transitional window.

Community Care Licensing. Established within CDSS, the Community Care Licensing Division's mission is to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care through effective and collaborative regulatory enforcement. This mission is accomplished by: promoting strategies to increase voluntary compliance; providing technical assistance to and consulting with care providers; working collaboratively with clients, their families, advocates, care providers, placement agencies, and regulatory agencies; training staff in the licensing process; educating the public about licensing and community care options; and promoting continuous improvement and efficiency throughout the community care licensing system. In fiscal year 2025-26, the Community Care Licensing Division oversaw a total of 73,847 community care facilities.

Adult Community Care Facilities. An adult community care facility refers to an adult residential facility, which is a licensing category under the CDSS Community Care Licensing Division. Adult residential facilities provide 24-hour, non-medical care and varying levels of supervision for clients ages 18-59 or any person 60 years of age or older if they require the same level of care and supervision as other clients in the facility. Clients may have a mental, physical, or developmental

disability. Care and supervision can mean any of the following activities provided to meet the needs of clients:

- Assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing, and other personal hygiene.
- Assistance with taking medication.
- Central storing and distribution of medications.
- Arrangement of and assistance with medical and dental care.
- Maintenance of house rules for the protection of clients.
- Supervision of client schedules and activities.
- Maintenance and supervision of client cash resources or property.
- Monitoring food intake or special diets.

While an adult residential facility is a non-medical facility, incidental medical services may be provided to clients through a third-party home health agency when certain conditions are met. As of June 2025, the Community Care Licensing Division oversees 6,161 adult residential facilities across the state, with a total licensed capacity of 40,296.

Some facilities specialize in providing comprehensive and individualized care or rehabilitation services to promote an individual's functional status and independence. These facilities offer supports such as a lower number of residents, additional staffing, and trauma-informed care. In addition to CDSS licensing requirements, these facilities require a special certification or vendorization process to operate. As of June 2025, the Community Care Licensing Division oversees 98 adult residential facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs with a total licensed capacity of 468; 25 Community Crisis Homes with a total licensed capacity of 103; and 83 Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes with a total licensed capacity of 313.

Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE). RCFEs provide 24-hour, non-medical care and supervision for clients 60 years of age or older. This level of care and supervision is for people who are unable to live by themselves but who do not need 24-hour nursing care. Assistance with activities of daily living may include, but is not limited to: assistance with hygiene, dressing, eating, and walking. As of June 2025, the Community Care Licensing Division oversees 7,889 RCFEs across the state, with a total licensed capacity of 174,458.

Requirement to Update Email Address. Licensees are required to routinely update certain information when a change of status occurs. For example, an adult residential facility must update the Community Care Licensing Division within 30 days of a change in administrator, within 15 days of a declared contagious disease emergency with a completed Emergency Infection Control Plan, and by the next business day for each use of manual restraint or seclusion. Current statute allows licensees 10 days to notify Community Care Licensing Division of a change of email address. This bill allows licensees an additional two days to notify the state of a change of email address.

Comments

This bill extends the window for an applicant or licensee of an adult community care facility to notify the CDSS Community Care Licensing Division of the email address of record or of any change to the email address of record from 10 business days to 12 business days. In doing so, this bill provides more flexibility for licensees. According to the author, an email address change could be related to administrative or personnel changes within an organization. Increasing the email notification requirement to 12 days provides more time to identify a successor contact and email account. The extended reporting window remains shorter than the requirement to update Community Care Licensing Division of a change in administrator, which must be communicated within 30 days.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1766 (Bloom, Chapter 139, Statutes of 2020), signed into law after AB 2377, required an applicant or licensee of an adult community care facility to maintain an email address of record with CDSS, and to provide written notification of the email address and of any change within 10 business days.

AB 2377 (Chiu, Chapter 146, Statutes of 2020) required an applicant or licensee of an adult community care facility to maintain an email address of record with CDSS, and to notify CDSS in writing of the email address and any change within 10 business days. The bill separately imposed the same requirement for an applicant or licensee for a residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness.

AB 737 (Eggman, Chapter 180, Statutes of 2019) requires a person or entity seeking a license for a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly to file an application form with CDSS. The bill required an applicant or licensee of a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly to maintain an email address of record

with CDSS, and to provide written notification of the email address and any change within 10 business days.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "Negligible costs to CDSS."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Assisted Living Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Berman, Bonta, Flora, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/14/26 17:04:29

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1418
Author: Cervantes (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

PRIOR SENATE VOTES NOT RELEVANT

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 8/26/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-13, 8/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Preservation of election materials

SOURCE: Attorney General Rob Bonta

DIGEST: This bill makes it a crime to take specified election materials or voting technology from the custody of election officials. This bill also expands the types of materials required for preservation if an election contest or criminal proceeding is ongoing.

Assembly Amendments replaced this bill's original contents with the current language.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits packages containing voted ballots from an election from being destroyed if an election contest or criminal prosecution related to those ballots is ongoing. The packages of voted ballots from an election cannot be taken from the custody of the elections official.

2) Requires the elections official to preserve all rosters or combined rosters and voter lists from an election until five years after the date of the election. The elections official may destroy those materials after that five-year period.

3) Requires the elections official to keep ballots, paper cast vote records, and ballot identification envelopes in packages that remain unopened and unaltered for 22 months from the date of the election where candidates for one or more of the following federal offices are voted upon: President, Vice President, United States Senator, and United States Representative. For any other election, these materials must be retained for six months. The elections official must destroy or recycle these unopened items at the end of the retention period unless an election contest or criminal prosecution commences during that period.

4) Requires the elections official to keep any tally sheets used for manually tallying ballots, lists of challenged voters, and lists of assisted voters from an election in packages for 22 months from the date of a federal election and for six months from the date of any other election. The elections official may destroy or recycle the packages at the end of the retention period unless an election contest or criminal prosecution commences during that period. Voters are permitted to inspect the contents of the packages if certain conditions are met.

5) Prohibits any person from permitting an agent of a law enforcement agency to access, disrupt, modify, or take possession of rosters, combined rosters, voter lists, or certified voting technology unless authorized by a court order or to investigate a violation of state law prohibiting fraudulent voting.

6) Makes it a felony for a person to tamper with voting devices, or to interfere with the secrecy of election equipment source codes, including knowingly breaking the chain of custody for certified voting technology without authorization.

7) Permits the Secretary of State (SOS), the Attorney General (AG), or a county elections official to bring a civil action against any person who tampers with voting technology.

8) Defines "certified voting technology" as any certified voting technologies certified by the SOS, including voting systems, ballot on demand printing systems, electronic poll book systems, or adjudication systems, and the hardware, firmware, software, proprietary intellectual property they contain,

any components, and any products they generate, including ballots, ballot images, reports, logs, cast vote records, or electronic data.

9) Defines "electronic data" to include voting technology software, operating systems, databases, firmware, drivers, and logs.

This bill:

1) Prohibits specified election materials required to be retained after an election, certified voting technology, or electronic data from being taken from the custody of the elections official.

2) Permits the SOS, the AG, or a county elections official to bring a civil action against any person who takes materials in 1) of this bill from the custody of the elections official.

3) Makes it a crime, punishable by a $1,000 fine, imprisonment for up to three years, or by both, for a person to knowingly take materials in 1) of this bill from the custody of the elections official.

4) Prohibits the destruction of specified materials, certified voting technology, or electronic data from an election while a contest, criminal investigation, or criminal prosecution related to that election is pending.

5) Requires electronic media that contains election data to be secured during the retention period for that data.

6) Requires the provisions of this bill be construed and applied in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the California Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

7) Contains an urgency clause.

Background

Riverside County. In early 2026, a local election watchdog group raised concerns that the number of ballots cast in the November 2025 statewide special election differed from the official total reported by the Riverside County Registrar of Voters (ROV) by nearly 46,000 ballots. Taking these concerns into consideration, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department applied to the Superior Court and

sought a warrant to seize the ballots "in order to prove or disprove any criminal conduct." The court issued a judicial warrant on February 9, 2026.

At a presentation to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on February 10, 2026, the ROV addressed the alleged discrepancies and disputed the watchdog group's figures. The ROV noted the difference between ballots cast and ballots counted, based on official results, was 103 ballots.

On February 26, 2026, the Sheriff's Department seized about 1,000 boxes of ballots and ballot materials.

The Sheriff's Department also obtained two additional search warrants: one to seize additional election materials (beyond ballots) and another to appoint a special master to oversee the Sheriff Department's counting of ballots.

As this process unfolded, the AG issued multiple letters directing the Riverside County Sheriff to preserve all seized ballots and pause further action. The AG further questioned whether the warrants were supported by probable cause and whether the Riverside County Sheriff's Department presented the magistrate with all the material evidence required by law.

On April 8, 2026, the California Supreme Court ordered the Riverside County Sheriff to halt his investigation into alleged fraud in the November 2025 special election and preserve all seized items. Proceedings remain ongoing, and the California Supreme Court indicated that this matter will be considered on an expedited basis.

Connecting SB 73, AB 1664, and SB 851. SB 73 (Cervantes, Chapter 10, Statutes of 2026), which took effect on May 27, 2026, restricted law enforcement agencies and officers from interfering or engaging in specific conduct related to elections. Among other provisions, the measure required the AG to provide guidance for county election officials and managers of election sites regarding how to respond to requests for access by law enforcement agencies for election-related materials and locations. The bill also prohibited a peace officer from interfering in any manner with the administration of any election in this state, including the seizure of specified voter data and voting technology, unless certain conditions are met.

AB 1664 (Jackson) of 2026 is related to SB 73 and would require a local agency, political subdivision, or elections official to provide notice to the SOS and the AG immediately, but no later than one calendar day, after becoming aware of any

warrant, subpoena, or active law enforcement investigation pertaining to the search, seizure, or retention of any election records or certified voting technology.

Both these bills stem from SB 851 (Cervantes, Chapter 238, Statutes of 2025) which, among other provisions, expanded the prohibition for a person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling location to include an officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency, unless certain conditions are met. The author sought to "ensure that federal agents are treated the same way as state and local law enforcement so that it is a crime to hire or arrange for law enforcement to be posted at or near a voting location or county registrar's office without authorization."

Comments

1) *Author's Statement.* Democracy in California is under attack, not only by the Trump Administration but also by some officials in our state, including Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco. In March, Sheriff Bianco seized more than 600,000 voted ballots from the 2025 statewide special election on Proposition 50 from the Riverside County Registrar of Voters as part of a sham investigation driven by conservative extremist groups. This seizure was in violation of state law, which required that voted ballots remain in the custody of county registrars. In response, SB 73 provided additional guardrails against the seizure of ballots from the custody of county registrars. Then, in April, a group of press organizations including *CalMatters* successfully petitioned a court to unseal the warrants Bianco obtained. They found that, in addition to voted ballots, those warrants authorized the seizure of other election records from the Riverside County Registrar of Voters. This bill is a follow-up to SB 73 that will extend the protections in that bill to other kinds of election records, including voting machines and voting software, and protect the chain of custody of those materials.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 73 (Cervantes, Chapter 10, Statutes of 2026) restricts law enforcement agencies and officers from engaging in specified conduct related to elections.

SB 259 (Wahab) of 2026 makes it a misdemeanor for any person in charge of a vote by mail ballot to interfere with its delivery to a voter. The bill also makes it a

felony for any person with authority to direct other people under their supervision to interfere in either the delivery or return of a vote by mail ballot.

SB 884 (Umberg) of 2026 extends the time vote by mail drop off locations are open and modifies the type and range of prohibited activities near a polling location for elections held or proclaimed in 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029.

AB 282 (Pellerin) of 2026 makes it a felony for any person to seize ballots, election records, or voting technology before the certification of an election from the custody of the elections official. The bill also makes it a felony for any person with authority who directs other people under their supervision to seize ballots, election records, or voting technology.

AB 1664 (Jackson) of 2026 requires a local agency, political subdivision, or elections official to provide written notice to the SOS and the AG no later than one calendar day after becoming aware of any warrant, subpoena, or active law enforcement investigation pertaining to the search, seizure, or retention of any election records or certified voting technology.

SB 851 (Cervantes, Chapter 238, Statutes of 2025) among other provisions, required state agencies and local governments to provide written notice to the AG and the SOS within three court days after the agency or jurisdiction files or is served with a court action that contains a claim relating to elections arising under federal law.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

1) Ongoing cost pressures of an unknown amount, potentially in excess of $150,000, to the courts in additional workload by allowing the AG, SOS, or a county elections official to file a civil action against a person who takes certain elections materials from the custody of an elections official, and by making such an act a felony, for which a defendant is entitled to no-cost legal representation and a jury trial (General Fund (GF) or Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF)). It is unclear how many actions or prosecutions may commence statewide and how much court time may be needed to resolve each case, but it generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on staff and the TCTF may create a demand for increased court funding from the GF. The state budget provides annual

GF backfills to the TCTF to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in fiscal year 2025-26.

2) Potential incarceration costs of an unknown amount, likely to the counties instead of the state, to the extent prosecutions of the crime expanded by this bill result in imprisonment (local funds, GF cost pressures). Actual incarceration costs will depend on the number of convictions and the length and location of each county jail sentence. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $29,000, with higher costs in larger counties. Although county incarceration costs are generally not considered reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012), overcrowding in county jails creates GF cost pressures because the state has historically granted new funding to counties to offset overcrowding resulting from 2011 public safety realignment.

3) The SOS and DOJ report no significant costs, indicating that neither entity is likely to pursue the civil action allowed by this bill. However, in light of heightened political distrust and speculation about elections security across the nation and state, it is possible that the SOS or DOJ may undertake such an enforcement measure, with actual costs depending on how often the SOS or DOJ pursue an action and the level of additional staffing needed to handle the related workload.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

Attorney General Rob Bonta (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In a letter sponsoring this bill, Attorney General Rob Bonta states the following:

> [Election] administration increasingly relies on a broader range of records (including electronic records), equipment, and certified voting technologies that may be necessary to investigate allegations of election misconduct, resolve election contests, or preserve evidence during criminal prosecution of an election crime.
> […]

With state and federal law enforcement actors becoming more emboldened to meddle in election administration, [this bill] seeks to protect our most important election materials by keeping them in the custody of elections officials, even when subject to a search warrant.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-13, 8/20/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Chen, Hoover, Sanchez, Ta, Wallis

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/26/26 18:53:38

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1420
Author: Richardson (D)
Amended: 6/18/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/7/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/19/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Vote by mail ballots and early voting

SOURCE: California Voter Foundation
Protect Democracy United

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to promulgate regulations establishing uniform procedures for election officials that allow a voter to vote their vote by mail (VBM) ballot at a polling location without the VBM ballot's identification envelope; and 2) requires information to be included in the state voter information guide (VIG) about early in-person voting opportunities.

Assembly Amendments of 6/18/26 make technical and clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires every active registered voter to receive a VBM ballot for any election. Election officials must begin mailing a VBM ballot no later than 29 days before Election Day.

2) Authorizes any county, pursuant to the Voter's Choice Act (VCA), to conduct elections where polling locations, called vote centers, and a required number of VBM ballot drop-off locations are available prior to and on Election Day.

3) Requires non-VCA counties to provide at least one early voting location on the Saturday before Election Day. Non-VCA counties must also provide a required number of VBM ballot drop-off locations available prior to and on Election Day.

4) Permits a voter to vote their VBM ballot in person, without the identification envelope, if the polling location has real-time access to the county's election management system, verifies the voter has not returned their VBM ballot, and changes the status of the voter to an in-person voter. The voter must provide their name, their address, and sign the roster for the voting location. The county elections official must establish procedures to ensure that a voter who casts a ballot does not submit more than one VBM ballot without the identification envelope, and the precinct board or vote center election board must comply with those procedures.

5) Requires the state VIG to provide voters with information about an upcoming statewide election, such as information regarding each state ballot measure, specified candidate information, and the rights of voters.

This bill:

1) Requires the SOS to promulgate regulations establishing uniform procedures for election officials that allow a voter to vote their VBM ballot in person at a polling location without the VBM ballot's identification envelope. Among other specific procedures, the SOS must also consider different voting technologies and systems used in other counties and consult county election officials and election stakeholders when promulgating these regulations. These regulations must also be posted online.

2) Requires the SOS to include information about early voting opportunities, voting, and casting a VBM ballot in person when preparing voter education and outreach plans and templates for county voter education and outreach plans.

3) Require the state VIG to include information about in-person voting opportunities on the Saturday before Election Day and the process by which a voter may vote their VBM ballot in person at a voting location.

4) Contains an urgency clause to take effect immediately.

Background

Assembly Bill 626 (Pellerin). AB 626 (Pellerin, Chapter 661, Statutes of 2023) responded to the high volume of VBM ballots arriving in the final days before an election and the desire to have faster election results. AB 626 allowed voters to vote using their VBM ballot at a polling location if the poll worker is able to determine the voter has not already submitted a VBM ballot and changes the voter's status from a VBM voter to an in-person voter. If the voter has not already voted, then the voter provides their name and address, signs the roster, and uses their VBM ballot to vote at the polling location.

Placer County, a VCA county, provides this service at all of its vote centers. Known as "Sign, Scan, and Go," the service was offered during the statewide elections in 2024. This process allows voters to have their VBM ballots scanned and counted at vote centers instead of waiting until after the VBM ballot has been processed and counted. This resulted in Placer County lowering its processing time by about three to four days in 2024 compared to previous elections. According to the Placer County Registrar of Voters, elections conducted in 2025 had similar processing times to elections conducted in 2024.

Comments

Author's Statement. Long delays in calling the results of elections in California leave candidates and voters unsure of important outcomes and opens our state up to bad-faith attacks by election deniers. Recent legislation meant to address these delays created several new voting options that will help speed up how long it takes to process ballots. While counties that have already adopted these new methods have shown improvements in post-election processing time, such as with Placer County's adoption of accepting mail-in ballots at physical voting locations, widespread adoption remains slow and fragmented due to counties' elections officials lack of confidence in how to securely and efficiently implement the new methods. By directing the Secretary of State to share information with officials on how to implement these options and promote them through voter education and outreach plans, California can make full use of the voting methods crafted to improve our elections system.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 626 (Pellerin, Chapter 661, Statutes of 2023) allowed voters to vote their VBM ballot at a polling location if the poll worker has the ability to determine if the voter has already submitted a VBM ballot and changes the voter from a VBM voter to an in-person voter.

SB 1249 (Wilson, Chapter 296, Statutes of 2025) allowed voters to vote their VBM ballot at the county elections office or at a satellite location prior to the close of the polls on Election Day. The bill also required counties who do not conduct their elections pursuant to the VCA to provide at least one early voting location on the Saturday before Election Day.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

1) One-time costs of approximately $55,000 to the SOS to consult with specified stakeholders and promulgate VBM regulations (General Fund). The SOS notes that the procedures required by this bill are already addressed through existing Elections Code provisions, constitutional ballot secrecy requirements, county election administration practices, and SOS guidance documents, resulting in a "definite redundancy to these regulations." Additionally, minor and absorbable costs to the SOS to post the regulations online and update the VIG.

2) By requiring a county elections official to follow certain in-person VBM procedures, this bill may create a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates determines the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service for which the state must reimburse local costs, the county may seek reimbursement from the state (General Fund). However, any such costs would likely be minor and absorbable, as the specified procedures generally follow existing law.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Voter Foundation (source)
Protect Democracy United (source)
Campaign Legal Center
CPCA Advocates
Human Rights First
League of Women Voters of California
NAACP California-Hawaii State Conference

NextGen California
Responsive Gov Action
Verified Voting

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

5 individuals

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Berman, Bonta, Flora, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/14/26 17:12:59

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1432
Author: Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Amended: 6/18/26
Vote: 27

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Political Reform Act of 1974

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the Fair Political Practices Commission (FFPC) to have greater flexibility in classifying nonclerical positions, expands the state offices for which a candidate must file their statement of intention online or electronically with the Secretary of State (SOS) to include judicial offices, and increases the minimum text size of a required statement to 10-point Roman boldface type.

Assembly Amendments removed a provision of this bill that made a technical amendment to the Political Reform Act (PRA) and placed that provision into SB 1175 (Rubio) of 2026.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Prohibits the FPPC from including a nonclerical position in the same class in the civil service classification plan with any position of any other department or agency.

2) Requires, before becoming a candidate for a specific office, an individual to file a statement of intention to be a candidate, signed under penalty of perjury. An individual who intends to be a candidate for elective state office must file the statement of intention online or electronically with the SOS.

3) Requires, specified individuals who have to report activity expenses, when sending any written or printed invitation to an elected state officer, candidate for elective state office, legislative official, or agency official, to include on the invitation or on a letter attached to the invitation a printed or handwritten statement that is at least as large and readable as 8-point Roman boldface type, in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. The statement shall read:

   "Attendance at this event by a public official will constitute acceptance of a reportable gift."

This bill:

1) Allows the FPPC to include a nonclerical position in a class in the civil service classification plan that is separate and distinct from any other position of any other department or agency.

2) Expands the state offices for which candidates must file their statement of intention online or electronically with the SOS to include judicial offices.

3) Increases the font size on required statements, described in 3) of existing law, to 10-point Roman boldface type.

Background

Political Reform Act. Proposition 9, which appeared on the June 1974 ballot, created the PRA and established California's campaign finance and disclosure laws for state and local campaigns, candidates, officeholders, and ballot measures. Proposition 9 created the FPPC to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA.

Under the PRA individuals who intend to be candidates for elective state office must file a statement of intention, Form 501, online or electronically with the SOS. Under the PRA, an "elective state office" includes office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Controller, SOS, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Member of the Legislature, member elected to the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System, member elected to the Teachers' Retirement Board, and member of the State Board of Equalization.

Separately, all candidates, and elected officers and their controlled committees, as specified, must file campaign statements with the SOS.

Comments

Committee Bill. This bill is one of the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments' committee bills. This bill contains changes requested by the FPPC and by committee staff.

Personnel Classification Plan. The California Personnel Classification Plan, which is administered by CALHR and the State Personnel Board, is a framework that groups state civil service positions into classes. The allocation of the position into a class is based on the duties and responsibilities of the position. Positions are included in the same class if the positions are sufficiently similar so the duties and responsibilities can use the same descriptive title, the positions have the same requirements for education, experience, knowledge, and the current position holder has the ability to perform the duties, the positions require the same tests of fitness, and the same schedule of compensation can be made to apply with equity.

According to FPPC staff, current law prevents them from using any statewide classifications for nonclerical positions. The proposed language would give the FPPC the option to use statewide classifications that align with the duties and responsibilities of FPPC specific positions, to support a more efficient hiring process and cost-effective exam administration.

Most of the FPPC's positions can be standardized with other positions in the state classification system, but some specialized positions, such as Political Reform Consultant II, require flexibility allowing the FPPC to mandate knowledge and expertise of the PRA for that position.

Current Form 501. Under the PRA, judicial candidates are not included in the definition of an "elective state officer." Therefore, no statute requires judicial candidates to file their Form 501 with the SOS. Judicial candidates, however, are

required to file campaign reports with the SOS. Currently, judicial candidates already file with the SOS, as the Form 501 mandates every candidate to do so. This bill would make it explicit in statute that judicial candidates must file their Form 501 with the SOS.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

1) Minor and absorbable costs to the Department of Human Resources, which oversees civil service job classifications.

2) Minor and absorbable costs to the FPPC to conform positions with statewide classifications and update event invitation disclaimer requirements.

3) Minor and absorbable costs to the SOS to continue receiving statements of intention from judicial candidates online or electronically.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Berman, Bonta, Flora, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz

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8/14/26 17:04:29

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1435
Author: Committee on Revenue and Taxation
Amended: 6/22/26
Vote: 21

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/22/26
AYES: McNerney, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Becker, Grayson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 33-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Hurtado, Niello, Padilla, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Personal Income Tax Law and Corporation Tax Law: federal conformity

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes technical and conforming changes to several provisions of the Revenue & Taxation Code pertaining to date-change conformity to federal tax law as of specified date, January 1, 2025.

Assembly Amendments (1) Decouple state conformity to Section 1446(f) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC); and (2) Make other technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Does not automatically conform to changes made by Congress to the IRC except for changes to pension and retirement programs; instead, the Legislature must affirmatively conform state law to federal to ensure consistent treatment for the same items.

2) Conforms to the IRC as of January 1, 2025, with modifications (SB 711, McNerney, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2025).

3) Conforms under the Personal Income Tax (PIT) law to Section 13301(a) of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-97, "TCJA"), which limits the deductibility of interest paid by a trade or business, but explicitly decouples from this change in the Corporation Tax.

4) Does not conform under the Corporation Tax to Section 13301(a).

5) Conforms with modification to IRC 1446, relating to the withholding of tax by a partnership with foreign partners.

6) Contains references to various IRC "deadwood" provisions.

This bill:

1) Provides that for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, the limit on deductibility for business interest under federal income tax law does not apply for purposes of the PIT Law.

2) Removes references in state law to IRC "deadwood" provisions; and makes several technical amendments.

3) Decouples state conformity to IRC 1446(f), relating to special rules for tax withholdings on dispositions of partnership interests by persons in a partnership with foreign partners.

4) Apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified.

Background

SB 711 Clean-up. Between 2015 and 2025, there were more than 1,000 substantive changes to the Internal Revenue Code, for which California had not yet

determined whether the Revenue and Tax Code (RTC) would conform, not conform, or conform with modifications. When the Legislature enacted SB 711, it conformed to the changes for the first time in ten years by updating the "specified date" in RTC Section 17024.5. Advancing the specified date incorporates select changes made to the IRC where the RTC applies by reference. The bill then enacts statutes to either decouple or conform with modifications to specific changes made by Congress to the IRC, where state conformity is not desired. Through this "date-change" process, SB 711 updates the RTC to align with the IRC, thereby reducing differences between a taxpayer's state and federal tax obligations and easing compliance burdens for taxpayers. Examples include the treatment of alimony payments, catch-up IRA contributions, and first-responder retirement and disability payments.

However, SB 711 inadvertently conformed the state PIT law to Section 13301(a) of the TCJA, which limits the deductibility of interest paid by a trade or business. SB 711 explicitly decouples from this change under Section 89 of the Corporation Tax. SB 711's PIT omission was identified past the deadline to amend the measure. SB 711's estimated General Fund revenue gains were approximately $336.4 million in fiscal year 2025-26, $246.7 million in 2026-27, and $172.1 million in 2027-28 *assumed* the decoupling, which, as noted above, was inadvertently not included in SB 711. Additionally, the Franchise Tax Board identified several "deadwood" provisions, and helpful conforming changes have been identified since SB 711's enactment.

Additionally, prior to SB 711, California conformed to the withholding of tax by a partnership with foreign partners under IRC section 1446, as of the "specified date" of January 1, 2015, with modifications for the rates of tax, but did not conform to the federal requirement to withhold 10% of the amount realized on the sale or exchange of a partnership interest unless the transferor certifies that the transferor is not a nonresident alien individual or foreign corporation. SB 711 updated the state's conformity to IRC 1446(f) under RTC 18666 in three ways:

- Amends RTC 18666(a) to make a technical amendment clarifying that IRC 1446, relates to withholding of tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income.

- Amends RTC 18666(b)(1) by stating that IRC 17043, in addition to 17041, are applicable to the tax referred to in IRC 1446(b)(2)(A).

- Adds RTC 18666(b)(3) stating that the rate of tax referred to in IRC 1446(f)(1), relating to disposition of partnership interests, shall be the rate

specified in Sections 17041 and 17043, as applicable, rather than the rate specified in IRC 1 or IRC 11, relating to tax imposed.

Following the enactment of SB 711, tax practitioners raised concerns that conformity to IRC 1446(f) was ambiguous and difficult to comply with, including that the federal definition of effectively connected income did not align with the treatment of California-source income. This misalignment makes it difficult for taxpayers to comply with the provisions' withholding requirements. SB 1435 repeals conformity to IRC 1446(f), which only affects the withholding requirement, not the amount of tax due.

History of "date-change" conformity. "Date change" commenced in 1982, when California's income and corporation taxes were not linked to the Internal Revenue Code. In that year, the Legislature made wholesale changes to the RTC, replacing more than 300 stand-alone provisions and linking them to the Internal Revenue Code. For example, instead of California law defining "income" to include wages, salaries, and capital gains, among others, it says, "Section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code, relating to gross income defined, applies except as otherwise provided." These changes significantly reduced the differences between state and federal tax systems, simplifying compliance for taxpayers, practitioners, and tax enforcement agencies. One part of the 1982 changes was to enact a section of law in the RTC that provides that, as of January 1st of a specified year, the IRC applies for California purposes. The Legislature could then enact a bill to update the specified year to incorporate any subsequent changes that Congress made to the IRC, while at the same time providing in the bill the specific changes that they did not want to apply for California purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- General Fund revenue loss of approximately $240 million in fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, $550 million in FY 2026-27, $360 million in FY 2027-28, and $370 million in FY 2028-29, related to decoupling from the federal limitation on the business interest expense deduction under PIT Law. However, this bill is a clean-up measure to last year's conformity measure, SB 711 (McNerney), Chapter 231, Statutes of 2025, which was estimated to result in hundreds of millions of dollars of GF revenue gain. As noted in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee's analysis of this bill, the revenue loss attributable to this bill was already accounted for as revenue loss in SB 711, but the actual provision was inadvertently omitted from the

enacted measure. The FTB notes that this bill's other provisions would not impact PIT or Corporation Tax Law revenues.

- Absorbable costs to the FTB to update guidance and other materials and process amended tax returns filed by taxpayers impacted by the limitation on business interest revision.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Society of Enrolled Agents
California Taxpayers Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Taxpayers Association, "SB 1435… [updates] California tax laws to ensure federal conformity for personal income and corporation taxes. California takes a selective approach to conforming to federal tax changes one provision at a time, allowing lawmakers to evaluate each amendment for its fiscal impact, equity implications, and alignment with the state's economic priorities before deciding whether to adopt it. For the nation's most populous and economically diverse state, this tailored approach preserves the flexibility to support key industries, protect low-income taxpayers, and maintain a stable revenue base rather than importing federal rules that may not suit California's unique housing, labor, and environmental policies and the state's economic growth needs. SB 1435… [ensures] that California safeguards both its budget and its policy goals while giving taxpayers more consistency with federal rules."

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8/24/26 17:02:17

****** END ******

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1436
Author: Committee on Revenue and Taxation
Amended: 8/10/26
Vote: 21

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/22/26
AYES: McNerney, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, Becker, Grayson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/24/26

SUBJECT: Qualified ABLE Program

SOURCE: Author & California State Treasurer

DIGEST: This bill revises the definition of "good standing" under the accelerated remittance program exemption and authorizes the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) to reinstate a revoked exemption; conforms state law to recent changes to IRC 529A pertaining to increased contributions to an Achieving and Better Life Experience (ABLE) account.

Assembly Amendments resolve a conflict with SB 180 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 85, Statutes of 2026) to prevent chaptering-out.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Imposes the sales tax on every retailer "engaged in business in this state" that sells tangible personal property, and requires them to register with the CDTFA, as well as remit taxes collected from purchasers to CDTFA.

2) Applies the sales tax whenever a retail sale occurs, which is generally any sale other than one for resale in the regular course of business.

3) Provides that unless the purchaser pays the sales tax to the retailer, they are liable for the use tax, which is imposed on any person consuming tangible personal property in the state, and requires the purchaser to remit use tax to CDTFA.

4) Sets the state sales and use tax rate at 7.25% of the sales price of the property sold or used, of which 3.9375% flows to the state General Fund.

5) Requires used-car dealers to generally remit applicable sales or use tax to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) within 30 days of each sale (also known as "the accelerated remittance program") (AB 85, Committee on Budget, Chapter 8, Statutes of 2020).

6) Authorizes CDTFA, in consultation with DMV, to exempt from the accelerated remittance program any used car dealer that sold 1,000 or more vehicles at retail in the previous calendar year or in the current calendar year, provided that the dealer's account is in good standing with CDTFA (SB 132, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 17, Statutes of 2025).

7) Defines "good standing" as a dealer that has timely:

   a) Filed all required sales and use tax returns for the 12 quarterly reporting periods immediately preceding issuance of the exemption; and

   b) Remitted all payments applicable to those returns, including any required sales and use tax prepayments.

8) Authorizes CDTFA to revoke the exemption after 30 days from the date CDTFA provides notice to the dealer that they are no longer in good standing or when vehicle sales have decreased to below 1,000 in a calendar year.

9) Restricts CDTFA to look only to the 12 quarterly periods immediately preceding issuance of the exemption to determine good standing.

10) Does not authorize CDTFA to reinstate a revoked exemption.

11) Conforms to the federal tax treatment of Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 529, Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts, as of January 1st, 2015 (AB 449, Irwin, Chapter 774, Statutes of 2015; and SB 324, Pavley, Chapter 793, Statutes of 2015).

12) Has conformed to subsequent changes in federal law, including:

    a) Eliminating differences in qualification criteria, increasing contribution limits made by designated beneficiaries to up to the federal poverty level, and allowing taxpayers to roll over IRC 529 plans to ABLE accounts (AB 91, Burke, Chapter 39, Statutes of 2019).

    b) Federal ABLE account definitions (AB 2216, Irwin, Chapter 896, Statutes of 2022).

    c) Increases the age, from 26 to 46, at which an individual's blindness or disability must have begun to qualify for the program (AB 339, Irwin, Chapter 324, Statutes of 2023).

    d) Authorizing tax-free rollovers from "Trump Accounts," established pursuant to IRC 530A, to a beneficiary's ABLE account (SB 180, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 85, Statutes of 2026).

13) Has a specified date of conformity to the IRC of January 1, 2025.

14) Does not conform to changes to federal law made by Sections 70115(a)(1) and 70115(a)(2) of H.R. 1 (Public Law 119-21, One Big Beautiful Bill Act), pertaining to inflation-indexing contribution limits of ABLE accounts.

This bill:

1) Revises the definition of "good standing" to look at the 12 quarterly reporting periods preceding reinstatement of the dealer's exemption to the accelerated remittance program.

2) Allows CDTFA to reinstate a revoked exemption.

3) Conforms state law to H.R. 1's change to inflation-indexing contribution limits in the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes.

4) Makes conforming changes to a provision in the Welfare and Institutions Code relating to ABLE accounts.

Background

SB 132 clean-up. Under SB 132, once CDTFA grants an exemption, a follow-up good standing determination must still be based on the periods immediately preceding issuance of the exemption. Accordingly, a taxpayer that receives an exemption but later fails to comply with the requirement to timely file and remit all applicable payments may argue that they cannot be subject to revocation because they were in good standing during the period immediately preceding issuance of the exemption. This bill remedies this by revising the definition of "good standing" to mean that the dealer has timely filed and remitted applicable payments, including applicable prepayments, for all required sales and use tax returns for the most recent 12 quarterly reporting periods.

Further, SB 132 did not authorize CDTFA to reinstate a revoked exemption after a dealer returns to good standing or reaches 1,000 or more vehicle sales in a calendar year following the revocation. Since the exemption enhances administrative efficiency and reduces compliance burdens, allowing CDTFA to reinstate a revoked exemption once the conditions for exemption are met should better accomplish the program's intent.

ABLE Account Conformity. For calendar year 2026, federal law authorizes individual contributions up to $20,000 to an ABLE account in the name of a specified beneficiary, and the designated beneficiary may also make a contribution that exceeds that limit, subject to annual inflation indexing. State law does not generally automatically conform to changes in federal tax law. As a result, under current state law, for calendar year 2026, individual contributions would be limited to $19,000, and beneficiaries would not be allowed to make higher contributions. The bill will conform the state personal and corporate income tax laws to H.R. 1's recent changes to contribution limits for ABLE accounts. This bill also makes conforming changes to the Welfare and Institutions Code, removing the sunset date of the higher contribution rule.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- Minor and absorbable costs to CDTFA to reinstate revoked Accelerated Remittance Program exemptions and notify affected licensed dealers.

- General Fund revenue loss of approximately $40,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27, $20,000 in FY 2027-28, and $30,000 in FY 2028-29 by conforming state Personal Income Tax and Corporation Tax Law to recent

federal ABLE Program changes. Additionally, minor and absorbable costs to the Franchise Tax Board to implement conformity provisions.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California State Treasurer (Source)
California Taxpayers Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Taxpayers Association, "California takes a selective approach to conforming to federal tax changes one provision at a time, allowing lawmakers to evaluate each amendment for its fiscal impact, equity implications, and alignment with the state's economic priorities before deciding whether to adopt it. For the nation's most populous and economically diverse state, this tailored approach preserves the flexibility to support key industries, protect low-income taxpayers, and maintain a stable revenue base rather than importing federal rules that may not suit California's unique housing, labor, and environmental policies and the state's economic growth needs. … SB 1436 [ensures] that California safeguards both its budget and its policy goals while giving taxpayers more consistency with federal rules."

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8/24/26 17:55:27

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1438
Author: Committee on Local Government
Amended: 6/1/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 4/30/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Caballero, Valladares, Wahab

SUBJECT: Local government: investments and deposits

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to local government investment laws.

Assembly Amendments of 6/1/26 make technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Limits the percentage that local agencies can invest in many types of investments.

2) Allows local agencies to invest in commercial paper programs offer notes of varying short-term maturities not to exceed 270 days, but typically between one to 90 days. In addition to the maximum maturity of 270 days, state law includes additional safeguards to ensure that commercial paper programs operate effectively. Commercial paper must have the highest ranking or the

highest letter and number rate as provided by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. Entities issuing commercial paper must either be (1) general corporations with total assets in excess of $500 million and have debt, other than commercial paper, that is rated "A" or equivalent; or (2) special purpose corporations, trusts, or limited liability companies that have program-wide credit enhancements, such as overcollateralization, letters of credit, or surety bonds, and have commercial paper rated "A-1" or higher.

3) Allows local agencies to invest in medium-term notes are securities with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less. Local agencies may invest up to 30% of their surplus funds in medium term notes, which must be issued by corporations or depository institutions licensed in the United States, with at least an "A" rating. Medium-term investments provide greater liquidity compared to longer-term investments, which may not mature for decades.

This bill:

1) Makes various changes to local government investment laws to recast and reorganize provisions authorizing local agencies to invest their surplus funds, among other changes.

2) Clarifies that cities, counties, and local agencies may purchase commercial paper issued by a federally or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank and a federally or state-chartered bank.

3) Allows local agencies to invest in obligations issued by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Invest, allowing agencies to invest in the full range of issuances offered by the Inter-American Development Bank Group.

4) Allows counties and the City of Los Angeles to accept letters of credit that are drawn on accept letters of credit from a bank's own regional Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB).

5) Removes the January 1, 2031, sunset date on some of the provisions authorizing additional local agency investments.

Background

Since 1913, state law has authorized local officials to invest a portion of local agencies' temporarily idle funds in a variety of financial instruments. Originally, state law limited the instruments to government bonds, but over time the laws governing local agency investments have been amended to keep pace with changing investment opportunities and current market offerings. California law

allows local officials to deposit money in state or national banks, savings associations, federal associations, credit unions, or federally insured industrial loan companies in the State of California.

When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, or managing public funds, state law outlines local agencies' investment objectives, also known as the prudent investor standard. The primary objective is to safeguard the principal of the funds under its control. The secondary objective is to meet the liquidity needs of the depositor. The final objective is to achieve a return on the funds under its control.

State law limits the percentage that local agencies can invest in many types of investments. This encourages local agencies to diversify their investment portfolios, which limits the risk to the local agency if any investment does not have the expected return. Local agencies make investments with different maturity dates, which refer to the date when the borrower must make the final payment due on an investment. To limit risk, the Government Code places limitations on the types and terms of investments that local governments can make, including to limit the term to maturity for certain types of investments.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. Local agencies' ability to invest their temporarily idle funds helps local agencies manage their cash flow, maintain liquidity necessary to pay their bills, and make sound investments that provide a return but protect taxpayer funds. Many of the statutes authorizing local agencies to invest their surplus funds have been in place since at least 1949, some were updated in 1995, but many remain untouched. They reflect outdated drafting practices that comingled definitions, powers, and procedures. This can lead to confusion over local government investment powers and procedures and can lead to local agency investment portfolios falling out of compliance, which can put taxpayer dollars at risk. The only substantive policy changes reflected in the measure are also included in the Committee on Local Government's Annual Omnibus bill, SB 1439 of the current legislative session. To the extent both measures move forward, these changes will remain only in SB 1438 to avoid chaptering issues. To avoid confusion associated with provisions having multiple operative dates, the measure also removes a January 1, 2031, sunset on certain local agency investment tools. This measure is not intended to expand, contract, or change investment tools. It is intended to make investment practices clearer so that taxpayer dollars remain protected.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/25/26)

California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/25/26)

None received

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
6/26/26 13:19:54

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1439
Author: Committee on Local Government
Amended: 8/19/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/15/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 4/23/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Reyes, Wahab

SUBJECT: Local government: omnibus bill

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill proposes minor changes to state laws governing local governments' powers and duties.

Assembly Amendments make additional minor, noncontroversial changes.

ANALYSIS:

Each year, local officials discover problems with state statutes affecting counties, cities, special districts, and redevelopment agencies, as well as the laws on land use planning and development. These minor problems do not warrant separate (and expensive) bills. According to the Legislative Analyst, the cost of producing a bill in 2001-02 was $17,890.

The Senate Local Government Committee responds by combining several of these minor topics into an annual "omnibus bill." In 2025, for example, the Committee's

omnibus bill was SB 858, which contained seven proposals to change state law, avoiding approximately $108,000 in legislative costs. Although this practice may violate a strict interpretation of the single-subject and germaneness rules as presented in Californians for an *Open Primary v. McPherson* 43 Cal.Rptr.3d 315 (2006), nevertheless it is an expeditious and relatively inexpensive way to respond to multiple requests.

This bill, the "Local Government Omnibus Act of 2026," proposes the following changes to the state laws affecting local agencies' powers and duties:

1) *Joint Powers Agency (JPA) advisory committees*. The Joint Exercise of Powers Act allows two or more public agencies to use their powers in common if they sign a joint powers agreement. Sometimes an agreement creates a new, separate government called a joint powers authority (JPA). State law generally limits membership in JPAs to public agencies: federal, state, and local governments. Federally-recognized Indian tribes may also be members. The joint powers agreement specifies the membership of the JPA's governing body, which must be composed exclusively of officials elected to one or more of the governing bodies of the parties to the agreement. The governing body may delegate its functions to an advisory body or administrative entity for the purposes of program development, policy formulation, or program implementation, as long as the governing body of the JPA approves any annual budget of the agency to which the delegation is made. The Sites JPA notes that the terms regarding this delegation of authority are ambiguous and raise questions regarding what entities may participate in advisory bodies and the scope of activity that the bodies may perform. **SB 1439** provides that an advisory body can include any entity selected by the governing body and add definitions for "policy formulation," "program development," and "program implementation." [See SEC. 2 of the bill.]

2) *Mandate claim submission timeline*. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local governments for the costs of new or expanded state mandated local programs. Current law establishes procedures for local governments to make reimbursement claims for mandated costs. After the Commission on State Mandates identifies a state-mandated program from a test claim submitted by a local agency, the Commission adopts parameters and guidelines, defines what activities will be reimbursed, and adopts statewide cost estimates. The State Controller's Office (SCO) receives, reviews, and pays those claims, and issues claiming instructions based on a reasonable methodology provided by the Commission. Currently, a local government may file an annual reimbursement claim by February 15th following the fiscal year in

which costs are incurred. However, if the SCO revises claiming instructions between November 15th and February 15th, claimants have 120 days from the issuance of the revised claiming instructions. The SCO notes that this timeline means that local governments have fewer than 120 days for claims submitted between October 19th and November 15th, but the full 120 days for claims submitted on or after November 15th. **SB 1439** extends the window for submitting claims with the full 120 days to October 19th, so that local governments never have fewer than 120 days to submit a claim. [See SEC. 3.]

3) *Merced County public administrator.* State law establishes various county offices, including the public administrator, who is responsible for administering the estate of a county resident who dies. Public administrators are elected positions, but the Board of Supervisors may put a measure before voters to convert it into an appointed position. County boards can also consolidate the public administrator with the district attorney. Additionally, in 17 counties are authorized under law to appoint a public administrator, and boards in 7 counties can have a joint public guardian, veteran service officer, and public administrator. Finally, 11 counties may separate the public guardian and district attorney offices. In Merced County, the District Attorney serves as the public administrator, with deputy public administrators who handle cases working for the Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department. Merced County notes that appointing a public administrator housed with the public conservator/public guardian's office would achieve efficiency by consolidating and aligning the activities with the organization undertaking the work. **SB 1439** allows Merced County to appoint the public administrator, consolidate it with the office of public administrator, veteran service officer, and public guardian, and separate the office of public administrator from the office of district attorney. [See SEC. 4 and 24.]

4) *County clerk gender references*. State law establishes various county offices, including the county clerk. The responsibilities of the county clerk varies from county to county but generally includes maintaining records filed with the clerk, issuing marriage licenses, and acting as the administrative recordkeeper of the board of supervisors. A county clerk must sign and affix a seal to documents when performing their official duties. Senate Local Government Committee staff notes that the county clerk statutes use outdated references to gendered pronouns. **SB 1439** updates the statutes describing the county clerk's duties to use gender-neutral terminology. [See SEC. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.]

5) *County recorder notification program.* County recorders are responsible for examining and recording all documents dealing with the ownership of land in

counties. These documents include payments of taxes or fees, filings of fictitious business names, deeds, mortgage documents, easements, power of attorney documents, liens, and any documents that affect the ownership of any given property. Current law requires a county board of supervisors to establish a recorder notification program for the purpose of reducing home title fraud (SB 255, Seyarto, 2025). Under the program, the county recorder must, within 30 days of recordation of a deed, quitclaim deed, mortgage, or deed of trust, notify by mail the parties executing that document. The County Recorders Association of California notes that in cases of fraud, the person executing the document may be someone other than the current owner, resulting in the notification being misdirected to another party. **SB 1439** instead requires notification of the owner of record. [See SEC. 12.]

6) *County recorder archive program fee*. Existing law allows county recorders to charge a filing fee for recording and indexing every instrument, paper, or notice required or permitted by law to be recorded. The board of supervisors of a county may levy a $1 fee for filing every instrument, paper, or notice for record, in order to defray the cost of converting the county recorder's document storage system to micrographics. However, from 2020 to the end of 2025, this fee could be used to fund alternative archiving methods, as determined by the recorder. The County Recorder's Association of California notes that technology has advanced significantly, such that micrographics are no longer the mechanism of choice for maintaining archival documents. The Association also notes that there is only one manufacturer of microfilm, and microfilm printing machines are becoming hard to acquire. **SB 1439** restores the ability of the county recorder to use the existing $1 fee for alternative means of archiving, as determined by the county recorder, restrict the use of the fee to the purposes outlined in the law, and make technical changes. [See SEC. 13.]

7) *Mayor signatures for state funding programs*. Current law requires mayors to sign agreements, warrants, and other instruments, unless the city's legislative body provides by ordinance that these instruments can be signed by an officer other than the mayor. To be valid, ordinances must comply with numerous provisions of law, including requirements that ordinances be introduced and adopted at separate meetings, and that they take effect 30 days after passage, as well as publication and posting requirements. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) notes that these procedures can delay HCD's and city grantees' ability to sign standard agreements and process payments in a timely manner. These requirements can be particularly challenging for smaller cities that have limited capacity, don't meet at frequent intervals, or don't have a full-time legislative body. **SB 1439** allows a city council to adopt a resolution

to allow officers other than the mayor to sign agreements, warrants, and other instruments for the purpose of participating in a state-administered or state-approved funding or regulatory program. [See SEC. 14.]

8) *Local government investments*. State law regulates the investments into which any local agency may place its surplus funds. Current law allows the State Treasurer to accept letters of credit from any of the 11 regional Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB) to secure state deposits held in banks headquartered outside of California. State law allows counties and the City of Los Angeles to accept letters of credit, but restricts eligible letters of credit to those issued solely by the FHLB of San Francisco. The California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors notes that 57 of California's 58 counties maintain primary banking relationships with large national institutions headquartered outside the San Francisco FHLB district. They note that the current restriction forces these banks into more expensive collateralization methods, ultimately reducing the interest yields available to local agencies. **SB 1439** allows counties and the City of Los Angeles to accept letters of credit that are drawn on accept letters of credit from a bank's own FHLB. **SB 1439** also makes nonsubstantive changes to reorganize the section. [See SEC. 15.]

9) *Surplus Land Act (SLA) large dispositions.* The SLA spells out the steps local agencies must follow when they want to dispose of land. It requires local governments to give a "first right of refusal" to other governments and nonprofit housing developers, and to negotiate in good faith with them to try to come to agreement. The SLA designates certain types of land as "exempt surplus land." Statute provides that the entirety of the SLA does not apply to disposals of exempt surplus land. In 2023, the Legislature revised certain provisions of the SLA to address implementation issues, including to create an exemption for disposition of 10 or more acres of surplus land (SB 747, Caballero and AB 480, Ting) if certain conditions are met, in order to address disposition challenges that are unique to large areas. The Legislature also defined "disposition" of surplus land to include sales or leases with a term of 15 years or greater. Assembly Local Government Committee staff notes that the exemption for 10 or more acres refers to disposition to "buyers," which may unintentionally exclude leases of surplus land from the exemption. **SB 1439** corrects "buyers" to "persons or entities." [See SEC. 16.]

10) *Local agency meetings*. Current law, under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act), establishes requirements for how local agencies must hold public meetings. Among other provisions, the Brown Act requires meetings of the legislative body of a local agency be open and pubic. SB 707 (Durazo, 2025)

expanded various provisions of the Brown Act in numerous ways. Various parties have noted technical errors in several provisions of SB 707, including:

a) SB 707 allows, until January 1, 2030, "eligible subsidiary bodies" to use teleconferencing without meeting the otherwise applicable teleconferencing requirements, such as participating from a publicly-accessible location, as long as certain conditions are met. One condition includes that the legislative body that established the eligible subsidiary body must make findings every six months to authorize the use of teleconferencing. SB 707 also requires discussion of the recommendations of the subsidiary body at a meeting of the legislative body, which may be consolidated with the meeting at which findings authorizing teleconferencing are adopted. The California State Association of Counties notes the provision that allows the consolidation of the discussion of recommendations with the findings incorrectly states that the findings apply for twelve months, instead of six. **SB 1439** corrects that reference to six months to match the requirement for authorizing teleconferencing. [See SEC. 17.]

b) SB 707 authorizes, until January 1, 2030, members of "eligible multijurisdictional bodies" to teleconference without meeting the requirements otherwise applicable to teleconferenced meetings for a specified number of meetings per year. An eligible multijurisdictional body is defined as a multijurisdictional board, commission, or advisory body of a multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, the membership of which board, commission, or advisory body is appointed, and the board, commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to this chapter. Some local agency attorneys note that the term cross-county agency could be interpreted to mean either an agency that spans an entire county or an agency that spans multiple counties. **SB 1439** clarifies that a multijurisdictional body is an inter-county or intra-county agency. [See SEC. 18.]

11) *Subdivision map findings internal cross-reference*. Current law, the Subdivision Map Act, regulates how city and county officials approve the conversion of larger parcels into marketable lots. Among other requirements, the Map Act directs a county that approves a subdivision map in the very high fire hazard severity zone or the State Responsibility Area to make findings that the subdivision is consistent with state standards for subdivisions, or locally adopted ordinances, and fire suppression services will be available for the subdivision, as specified. The county must also send these findings to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. However, this requirement does not apply to specified subdivision maps that would subdivide land identified in the

general plan for the managed production of resources that meets specified conditions. Senate Local Government Committee staff note that this section contains an incorrect internal cross-reference within the section. **SB 1439** corrects that cross-reference. [See SEC. 19.]

12) *Imperial LAFCO report on Imperial Valley Healthcare District (IVHD).* Current law creates the IVHD to provide healthcare services across Imperial County, essentially consolidating Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and Heffernan Memorial Healthcare District (AB 918, Garcia, 2023). That measure required the Imperial County LAFCO to conduct a municipal service review (MSR) of the new district by December 31, 2026. Subsequently, SB 1070 (Padilla, 2024) extended the deadline for Imperial Valley Healthcare District to place a permanent funding mechanism for the new district on the ballot from 2024 to November 2026. The California Association of LAFCOs notes that the delay to November 2026 of the ballot measure for the funding mechanism makes it difficult for the Imperial County LAFCO to prepare an accurate and complete MSR by the end of 2026, as currently required. **SB 1439** delays the MSR requirement by one year, until December 31st, 2027. [See SEC. 20.]

Comments

Purpose of the bill. This bill compiles, into a single bill, noncontroversial statutory changes to six parts of state laws that affect local agencies and land use. Moving a bill through the legislative process costs the state around $18,000. By avoiding five other bills, the Committee's measure avoids approximately $72,000 in legislative costs. Although the practice may violate a strict interpretation of the single-subject and germaneness rules, the Committee insists on a very public review of each item. More than 150 public officials, trade groups, lobbyists, and legislative staffers see each proposal before it goes into the Committee's bill. Should any item in this bill attract opposition, the Committee will delete it. In this transparent process, there is no hidden agenda. If it's not consensus, it's not omnibus.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions
County of Merced
County Recorders Association of California
Imperial Local Agency Formation Commission

Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County
Marin Local Agency Formation Commission
Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission
Sites Project Authority

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

Prepared by: Anton Favorini-Csorba / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/24/26 17:22:07

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1443
Author: Committee on Education
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/22/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/26/26

SUBJECT: Elementary and secondary education: omnibus

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, the annual K-12 omnibus bill, makes numerous technical, clarifying, conforming, and other non-controversial revisions to a number of provisions related to education throughout statute.

Assembly Amendments add language to avoid chaptering conflicts with AB 2206 (Fong, 2026) and AB 126 (Committee on Budget, 2026).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to establish and implement a system of complaint processing, known as the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP), for specified educational programs. (Education Code (EC) § 33315)

2) Defines "nonnutritious beverages" to mean any beverage that is not any of the following: drinking water; milk, including, but not limited to, chocolate milk, soy milk, rice milk, almond milk, and other similar dairy or nondairy milk; an electrolyte replacement beverage that contains 42 grams or less of added sweetener per 20 ounce serving; or a 100% fruit juice, or fruit-based drink that is composed of 50% or more fruit juice and that has no added sweeteners. (EC § 35182.5)

3) Defines "nonnutritious food" to mean food that is not sold as part of the school breakfast or lunch program as a full meal, and that meets any of the following standards: more than 35% of its total calories are from fat; more than 10% of its total calories are from saturated fat; more than 35% of its total weight is composed of sugar. (EC § 35182.5)

4) Establishes the California Teacher Commission (CTC) in state government, consisting of 15 voting members, 14 of whom are to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. (EC § 44210)

5) Requires the CTC to, among other things, establish professional standards for entry and advancement in the education profession, and establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials. (EC § 44225)

6) Requires the CTC to issue district intern credentials authorizing persons employed by a school district that maintains kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, or that maintains classes in bilingual education to provide classroom instruction to pupils in those grades and classes, as specified. (EC § 44325)

7) Authorizes persons holding district intern credentials issued by the CTC to teach in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, or in grades 6 to 8, inclusive, in a departmentalized program, or in departmentalized bilingual classes, to teach in the subject area in which they have met the subject matter requirement. (EC § 44326)

8) Authorizes persons holding district intern credentials issued by the CTC to teach in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, in a self-contained program or in self-contained bilingual classes and who have met the subject matter requirement to teach in those grades or classes. (EC § 44326)

9) Authorizes higher education institutions to establish and maintain child development programs on or near their respective campuses. Subjects these higher education institutions under contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) for child care and development services, as specified, to the rules and regulations adopted by the SPI. (EC § 66060)

10) Requires the SPI, in cooperation with higher educational institutions, to establish rules and regulations governing child care and development programs. (EC § 66060)

11) Defines "California State Preschool Program" to mean those programs that offer part-day and/or full-day educational programs for eligible two-, three-, and four-year-old children and those enrolled in kindergarten. These programs may be offered by a public, private, or proprietary agency, and operated in childcare centers or family childcare homes operating through a family childcare home education network. (EC § 8205)

12) Requires the governing board of the district that orders any change or alteration to specified contracts to specify the change or alteration, as well as the cost agreed upon between the governing board and the contractor, in writing. Authorizes the contractor to proceed with the performance of the change or alteration, without the formality of securing bids if the cost agreed upon does not exceed the greater of two specified thresholds. (Public Contracts Code (PCC) § 20118.4)

13) Authorizes the governing board of any school district, or of two or more school districts government by governing boards of identical personnel, having an average daily attendance (ADA) of 400,000 or more as shown by the report of the county superintendent of schools for the preceding year, to authorize any change or alteration of a contract for reconstruction or rehabilitation work, other than for the construction of new buildings or other new structures, if the cost of the change is or alteration in excess of specified limitations but does not exceed 25% of the original contract price, without the formality of securing bids, and the change or alteration is a necessary and an integral part of the work under the contract and the taking of bids would delay the completion of the contract. (PCC § 20118.4)

This bill makes technical, clarifying, conforming, and other non-controversial revisions to several provisions in the Education Code. Specifically, this bill:

1) Strikes references to childcare and developments that are now under the purview of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and instead references preschool programs that are under the CDE's purview.

2) Updates and recasts the definitions of "nonnutritious beverages" and "nonnutritious foods" to align with federal requirements for competitive foods and beverages.

3) Removes obsolete references to the state basic skills proficiency test relative to multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist credentials.

4) Aligns the minimum requirements for the special education specialist with that of the multiple and single subject teaching credentials.

5) Clarifies eligibility criteria for early program completion within a district intern program.

6) Aligns the authorizations between district intern programs to ensure consistent assignment flexibility for interns regardless of program type.

7) Updates references to the CSSP and childcare programs at postsecondary education institutions to reflect the distinction between programs administered by the CDE and CDSS.

8) Revises the ADA threshold for school districts to issue change orders for construction contracts from 400,000 to 250,000 to reflect declining enrollment.

9) Incorporates double-jointing language to ensure that the amendments made by both this bill and AB 2206 (Fong, 2026) to Education Code Sections 44252, 44259, and 44325 become operative if both bills are enacted, and this bill is enacted last.

Comment

Purpose of the elementary and secondary education omnibus bill. Each year, there is typically a K-12 education omnibus bill that makes various technical, conforming, clarifying, and non-controversial revisions to the Education Code and other areas of statute related to education. Typically, staff with the Senate and Assembly education policy, fiscal and budget committees (and their minority consultants), the Department of Finance, the CDE, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and other similarly situated state government offices, identify statutes in existing law which need updating or correcting and propose corrections. Customs and practice provide that if offices or entities object to a proposed provision in the

omnibus bill, that particular provision is prohibited from inclusion.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill would have no fiscal effect.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 14:23:30

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1445
Author: Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development
Amended: 8/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 4/20/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 8/25/26

SUBJECT: Healing arts

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes numerous technical and clarifying statutory updates related to programs within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), and updates the information required from an individual who signs a fictitious business name statement, as specified.

Assembly Amendments make technical changes and address a chaptering conflict.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes, until January 1, 2026, the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to administer the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) Act, the Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP) Practice Act, the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) Practice Act, and the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) Act. (Business & Professions Code (BPC) § 4990)

2) Requires a coroner to file a report with the Medical Board of California (MBC), the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC), the Podiatric Medical Board of California (PBC), or the Physician Assistant Board of California (PAB), when they receive information that is based on the findings reached by a board-certified or board-eligible pathologist indicating that a death may be the result of a physician and surgeon, podiatrist, or physician assistant's gross negligence or incompetence, as specified. (BPC § 802.5)

3) Establishes the Dental Board of California (DBC) to license and regulate dentists; registered dental assistants and registered dental assistants in extended functions (BPC § 1601.1).

4) Authorizes the California State Board of Optometry to charge fees prescribed in connection with the registration of nonresident ophthalmic lens dispensers according to an established schedule. (BPC § 2564.79)

5) Establishes the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) to implement and enforce the License Law, which includes the licensing and regulation of contractors and home improvement salespersons. (BPC) § 7000 et seq.)

6) Requires a qualified manager certificate (for private security services) to be prominently displayed below the branch office license at the principal place of business, and if the principal place of business is outside of this state, then the certificate of the qualified manager must be posted below the branch office certificate at each branch office. (BPC § 7582.22)

7) Provides for the regulation of automotive repair under the Automotive Repair Act, which outlines the licensure requirements, scope of practice, and responsibilities of individuals who, for compensation, engage in the business of repairing or diagnosing malfunctions of motor vehicles. (BPC §§ 9880 *et seq.*)

8) Requires a registrant signature on a fictitious business name statement to declare that all the information in the fictitious business name statement is true and correct, and a registrant who declares the information is true and the registrant knows it to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor, as specified. (BPC § 17913(c))

This bill:

1) Requires a county medical examiner, in addition to a county coroner, to provide a report to the MBC, the OMBC, the PMBC, or the PAB when a death may be the result of gross negligence or incompetence of a respective licensee of that regulatory entity.

2) Repeals outdated references to a portfolio examination that is no longer offered by the DBC.

3) Reduces the application and registration fee by $150 and the renewal fee by $100 for a nonresident ophthalmic lens dispenser applicant.

4) Clarifies the requirement for supervision assessment via two-way video conferencing is only necessary when supervision is conducted via two-way real time video conferencing for gaining experience, as specified, for LPCC, LMFT and LCSW.

5) Defines terms and makes minor and clarifying changes to provisions of law requiring boards within the DCA and the DRE to register applicants who are licensed in another state and have relocated to California because of military orders.

6) Repeals the requirement for the director of the DCA to furnish one copy of the licensing laws and rules and regulations to any applicant or licensee of the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services without charge, and the requirement to charge a fee equivalent to the cost of producing such laws, rules, and regulations, manuals, or guides plus sales tax for any additional copy requested.

7) Deletes an outdated statutory requirement for the CSLB to conduct a study of judgments, arbitration awards, and settlements that were the result of claims for construction defects for rental residential units and submit the results to the

Legislature, as specified.

8) Reduces the number of members on the Construction Management Education Account Advisory Committee from 11 to 10 and updates references to two previously separate entities, Engineering and Utility Contractors Association and the Engineering Contractors Association which is now a single entity, *the Engineering and Utility Contractors Association d.b.a. United Contractors*.

9) Requires the registrant who signs a fictitious business name statement to include the signer's printed name and the title which authorizes them to sign the statement.

10) Makes numerous additional technical, conforming, and clarifying changes.

Background

This bill makes various changes to acts administered and enforced by boards and bureaus under the DCA, for example, updates include the following noted below.

Dental Board of California (DBC). The DBC is responsible for the licensure and regulation of dentists and dental assistants. This bill removes outdated references to the licensure by portfolio pathway which is no longer available.

Reporting Requirements to the Medical Board of California (MBC). Because not every county utilizes the services of a "coroner", this bill includes a "county medical examiner" to make the required reports when they receive information that a death may be the result of a licensee, to the appropriate regulatory board.

Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS). In 2022, the BBS sponsored AB 1758 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 204, Statutes of 2022), which permitted supervision to take place via videoconferencing in all settings, not just in exempt settings. This bill updates current law to clarify that the assessment for the appropriateness of video-conferencing supervision is only necessary if the supervision is conducted via videoconferencing.

Contractors State License Board (CSLB). This bill deletes an obsolete reference to a study conducted by the CSLB. The CSLB is required to establish an advisory committee whose purpose is to recommend grant awards for qualified public postsecondary education institutions. There are currently 11 members on the committee. Two association members have merged into one organization. This bill

reduces the committee membership to 10 and reflects the new name of the merged association.

Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS). This bill revises current law to clarify that a qualified manager license is to be posted below the private patrol operator's license, which is required to be posted in any principal place of business, including a branch office. Existing law requires the BSIS to furnish copies of licensing laws, rules, and regulations to its licensing population. This bill removes the unnecessary requirement to furnish a hard copy of the rules, regulations, and laws.

Bureau of Household Goods and Services (BHGS). BHGS is responsible for oversight of the Electronic and Appliance Repair Law, the Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Act, and the Household Movers Act. This bill replaces additional outdated references to copartnership and replaces them with the correct term, "partnership".

Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). The Automotive Repair Act requires that automotive repair dealers provide customers with written estimates that must be authorized by the customer prior to performing any work on the vehicle and invoices for the repairs performed. This bill updates current law to clarify that written estimates may be delivered electronically, as well.

Board of Optometry (BOO). SB 776 (Ashby, Chapter 788, Statutes of 2025) combined the registration and application fee for a non-resident ophthalmic lens dispenser and increased the statutory minimum and maximum fee for that registration. However, when the fees were combined, the established fee floors were inadvertently increased. This bill revises the initial registration fee to be set at $350 (which is the total combined application and registration fee charged prior to SB 776) and reduces the renewal fee to $200.

Veterinary Medical Board. The VMB oversees veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. This bill repeals obsolete language related to the VMB's registration and oversight of veterinary technicians.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the bill will not result in costs to the Contractors State License Board, Dental Board of California, State Board of Optometry, Veterinary Medical Board and the Bureau of Household Goods and Services. The bill will result in minor and absorbable costs to the Board

of Behavioral Sciences, Bureau of Automotive Repair and Bureau of Security and Investigative Services and minor and absorbable costs to the DCA Office of Information Services to make changes to the military affidavit and various website updates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Dental Board of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: the Dental Board of California notes that "this legislation aligns with our commitment to public protection…"

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
8/25/26 18:49:42

****** END ******

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1447
Author: Committee on Health
Amended: 6/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/29/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Ochoa Bogh, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 35-0, 5/14/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Blakespear, Niello, Pérez, Reyes, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 8/13/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Health omnibus

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes non-controversial changes to a number of provisions of existing law contained in the Health and Safety Code.

Assembly Amendments:

1) Strike the provision that removes entamoeba histolytica from the list of infectious agents required to report to the person in charge in a retail food facility;

2) Require the California Department of Aging (CDA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of AIDS to meet annually to collaborate on issues of mutual interest, including supporting seniors with chronic care conditions and comorbidities and the impacts of HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections on the aging population in California; and,

3) Extend the deadline from July 1, 2027, to December 31, 2028, or within one year of official notification by CDPH, for specified entities to collect and report data to CDPH for the California Syndromic Surveillance Program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Retail Food Code (CalCode) to provide for the regulation of retail food facilities. Health and sanitation standards are established at the state level through the CalCode, while enforcement is charged to local agencies, carried out by the 58 county environmental health departments, and four city environmental health departments (Berkeley, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon). [Health and Safety Code [HSC] §113700, et seq.]

2) Requires a person proposing to build or remodel a food facility to submit complete, easily readable plans drawn to scale, and specifications to the enforcement agency for review. Requires plan approval before starting any new construction or remodeling of a facility for use as a retail food facility. Requires limited service charitable feeding operation facilities to be deemed to be in compliance with specified structural requirements, pending replacement or renovation, unless a determination is made by the enforcement agency that the nonconforming structural conditions pose a public health hazard. [HSC §114380]

3) Authorizes CDPH to develop and administer a syndromic surveillance program to collect public health and medical data in near real time to detect and investigate changes in the occurrence of disease in the population, especially as a result of a disease outbreak or other public health emergency, disaster, or special event and to support responses to emerging public health threats and conditions impacting the health of California residents. Authorizes CDPH to designate an existing syndromic surveillance system or create a new system to facilitate the reporting of electronic health data by specified entities. Requires the syndromic surveillance system created or designated by CDPH to, at a

minimum, provide local health departments (LHDs) access to and use of a secure, integrated electronic health system with standardized analytic tools and processes to rapidly collect, evaluate, share, and store syndromic surveillance data. Requires all data collected under the syndromic surveillance program to be confidential. [HSC §131365(a)-(c) and §13180]

4) Authorizes CDPH to modify the list of data elements, electronic transmission standards, data transmission schedule, and instructions pertaining to the program at any time in collaboration with LHDs. Exempts these modifications from specified administrative regulation and rulemaking requirements and requires them to be implemented without being adopted as a regulation. [HSC §131365(d)]

5) Requires specified entities to submit the required data electronically to the syndromic surveillance system in accordance with the schedule, standards, and requirements established by CDPH. Requires reporting entities to submit the required data electronically to an LHD that participates in a syndromic surveillance system or maintains its own system. Requires reporting entities to collect and report data to CDPH or local syndromic system as near as possible to real-time. [HSC §13170(a)]

6) Requires the data elements, electronic transmission standards, data transmission schedule, and instructions for the data collection pursuant to the syndromic surveillance program to include, but not be limited to, any element or requirement adopted for use by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department, Urgent Care, Inpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings, Release 2.0, or any subsequent versions. [HSC §13170(c)]

7) Requires CDPH to provide each LHD as near as possible to real-time access to its jurisdiction's data entered into the state syndromic surveillance system; and authorizes CDPH, at its discretion, the sharing of data collected with all of the following entities: state governmental entities, LHDs, and specified entities if access is limited to the specified entity's own data. [HSC §13175(a) and (b)]

This bill:

1) Revises the definition of "catering operation" to mean a permanent food facility approved for food preparation where food is served at a location other than its permitted location in specified circumstances.

2) Requires the complete removal of reduced oxygen packaged fish with a label indicating that it is to be kept frozen until time of use from the reduced oxygen environment and package prior to thawing.

3) Defines the terms "egg product," "intact meat," and "mechanically tenderized."

4) Deletes the term "limited service charitable feeding operation facilities" for the purposes of the CalCode and replaces it with the term "existing nonprofit charitable feeding organization facilities whose food service is solely for providing charity."

5) Authorizes CDPH to implement and modify the list of data elements, standards, schedules, and instructions pertaining to the syndromic surveillance program at any time. Requires CDPH to collaborate with LHDs to determine necessary implementations and modifications.

6) Requires that the data elements, standards, schedule, and instructions for data collection to the syndromic surveillance system to include any element or requirement approved by CDPH.

7) Requires entities to report to the syndromic surveillance system no later than December 31, 2028, or within one year of official notification by CDPH. Authorizes entities to decline to report if the LHD's own system has the capacity to transmit data to CDPH in a specified manner by no later than December 31, 2028, or within one year of official notification by CDPH.

8) Requires CDA and the CDPH Office of AIDS to meet annually to collaborate on issues of mutual interest, including supporting seniors with chronic care conditions and comorbities and the impacts of HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections on the aging population in California.

9) Make other technical, clarifying changes to existing HSC provisions.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

The 2026 Health Committee Bill is an omnibus measure that implements non-controversial, non-substantive changes to various statutes in the HSC. Specifically, these amendments aim to fix a number of typographical errors in the HSC and align definitions throughout the CalCode to reflect those of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code. This bill will also remove a statutory contradiction in the California Syndromic Surveillance Program within the HSC, and provide clarity on CDPH's authority to implement and modify syndromic data elements that healthcare facilities and LHDs are required to submit to CDPH.

Typographical errors. AB 3161 (Bonta, Chapter 757, Statutes of 2024) amended HSC §1279.6 and referred to the incorrect subdivision within the added provisions. Specifically, HSC §1279.6(b)(1)(B) erroneously cross references subdivision (c) rather than subdivision (e). This bill fixes the typographical error.

CalCode. SB 144 (Runner, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2006) repealed the California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law that provided for the regulation of the health and sanitation standards for retail food facilities at the time, and replaced the law with CalCode to modernize safety standards, incorporate science-based regulations, and align state laws with the FDA Food Code. The CalCode is located in HSC §113700-114437, and contains the structural, equipment, and operational requirements for all California retail food facilities. According to the Food and Drug Branch of CDPH, provisions of the CalCode are primarily enforced by 62 local environmental health regulatory agencies. The Food and Drug Branch plays a supporting role in the enforcement of the CalCode by providing technical expertise to evaluate processes and procedures, as well as to answer technical and legal inquiries for local agencies, industry, and consumers. This bill aligns various definitions and requirements within the CalCode with the most current FDA Food Code.

Structural requirements for charitable feeding organizations. Existing law establishes structural requirements for the building or remodeling (including submission of plans) of retail food facilities, except for schools and churches. Local enforcement agencies have flexibility for plan check requirements for limited service charitable feeding organizations. This flexibility is necessary since most of these charitable organizations are run out of facilities like schools or churches that are not necessarily designed primarily to be food facilities. Since these charitable organizations are only permitted to prepare limited food preparation, local enforcement agencies would be able to allow some structural

requirements necessary in a full-service food facility to be waived without compromising food safety of charitable operations that do not engage in full food preparation. This bill proposes to delete the term, "limited service charitable feeding operation facilities," and instead add, "existing nonprofit charitable feeding organization facilities whose food service is solely for providing charity," to ensure that programs that conduct full meal preparation are captured within the list of entities given flexibility for plan check requirements, as originally intended.

California Syndromic Surveillance. According to the CDC, the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) provides public health officials with a timely system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health threats. NSSP tracks symptoms of patients in Emergency Departments (EDs) and other settings – before and after a diagnosis is confirmed, all in near real-time. This data tracking can help detect unusual levels of illness to determine whether a response is needed, and can monitor disease trends across the nation. Syndromic data serves as an early warning system to protect Americans from respiratory viruses, environmental threats, avoidable injuries, emerging diseases, and more. NSSP unites federal partners, local and state health departments, and academic and private sector partners. NSSP provides the infrastructure for data sharing and improves the nation's responsiveness to health threats.

The Office of Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response in CDPH's Center for Infectious Diseases is working towards establishing a coordinated, centralized statewide syndromic surveillance program, known as the California Syndromic Surveillance (CalSyS), with standardized data across the state using the NSSP BioSense Platform. As of 2024, HSC §131360-131380 authorizes the implementation of the statewide CalSyS program and grants CDPH legal authority to collect and require syndromic data submissions from hospitals with EDs. This bill removes existing statutory contradictions in the California Syndromic Surveillance Program, as well as extend the current deadline from July 1, 2027, to December 31, 2028, or within one year of official notification by CDPH, for specified entities to collect and report data to CDPH for the California Syndromic Surveillance Program.

Impacts of HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections on older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that, as of 2022, approximately 42% of those living with diagnosed HIV in the United States were aged 55 and older. Despite the sizeable population of older adults with HIV, according to the National HIV Curriculum, an AIDS Education and Training Center Program led by the University of Washington, the impact of HIV on the aging process is not entirely clear. Additionally, multiple factors can complicate

HIV treatment for older adults, including additional conditions such as heart disease or cancer; increased frequency of side effects; increased risk of drug interactions between HIV medications and medications for other conditions; and cognitive impairment, which makes it more difficult to stick to an HIV treatment regimen. This bill requires CDA and the CDPH Office of AIDS to collaborate on issues regarding supporting seniors with chronic care conditions and comorbities and the impacts of HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections on the aging population in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 862 (Committee on Health, Chapter 243, Statutes of 2025), among other provisions, made technical amendments related to CalSyS.

SB 159 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 40, Statutes of 2024) authorized CDPH to either designate an existing system or to create a new system for syndromic surveillance.

AB 831 (Committee on Health, Chapter 155, Statutes of 2021) requires limited service charitable feeding operation facilities to be deemed to be in compliance with specified structural requirements, pending replacement or renovation, unless a determination is made by the enforcement agency that the nonconforming structural conditions pose a public health hazard, for the purposes of the CalCode, among other provisions.

AB 1252 (Committee on Health, Chapter 556, Statutes of 2013) and SB 241 (Runner, Chapter 571, Statutes of 2009) amended various provisions within the CalCode.

SB 144 (Runner, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2006) created CalCode.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Minor and absorbable costs to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Aging.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0 8/13/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Berman, Bonta, Flora, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz

Prepared by: Margarita Niemann / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/14/26 17:04:30

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 145
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Introduced: 3/11/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Mental Health Peer Appreciation Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes the 3rd week of May 2026 as Mental Health Peer Appreciation Week in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) Peers, who are individuals with lived experiences of mental health or substance uses challenges, have unique perspectives on navigating the public behavioral health care system and can encourage, engage, and support other peers on their journey to recovery, health, and wellness.

2) Peers can provide voluntary support services that are cost-effective and Medi-Cal billable in a variety of settings that can help reduce and prevent incarceration, hospitalization, and institutionalization while uplifting people's health care autonomy.

3) Peer support is an evidence-based practice that is integrated into the delivery of mental health services provided by counties, including Assertive Community Treatment, Forensic Assertive Community Treatment, Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode Psychosis, and Individual Placement and Support Supported Employment.

4) Peer services help reduce health disparities in underserved communities by empowering peers to work in the behavioral health industry, creating a workforce that is reflective of a community's diversity and health needs.

This resolution recognizes the third week of May 2026, during National Mental Health Awareness Month, as Mental Health Peer Appreciation Week in California.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 23 (Quirk-Silva, Resolution Chapter 87, Statutes of 2025)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/16/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/16/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
3/18/26 13:52:54

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 139
Author: Becker (D)
Introduced: 8/11/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: County Welfare Directors Association of California's Centennial Anniversary

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution honors the California Welfare Directors Association for its Centennial Anniversary.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) The County Welfare Directors Association, known as CWDA, has, for 100 years, represented county human services agencies throughout California. CWDA has worked at the local, state, and federal level advocating for the social safety net and the Californians served by its programs.

2) In 2010, CWDA cosponsored legislation that expanded foster care from 18 years of age to 21 years of age so that young adults in the foster care system would have access to housing, education, and employment supports to improve their outcomes as they moved into adulthood.

3) CWDA played an integral role in implementing the federal Affordable Care Act in 2013, and ensured that millions of new clients could enroll and access health care through the state Medi-Cal program.

This resolution honors the California Welfare Directors Association for its Centennial Anniversary.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
8/20/26 9:23:24

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 140
Author: Strickland (R), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: California Wildlife Day

SOURCE: KFI AM640

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims September 4, 2026, to be California Wildlife Day in remembrance of Jackie the bald eagle, and that the Senate encourages Californians across the state to celebrate in her memory and in recognition of the importance of protecting California's extraordinary wildlife for generations to come.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) California is one of the most ecologically diverse states in the nation and boasts the greatest diversity in climate, terrain, and geology of the contiguous United States, all of which provide the wide range of habitats that support what may be the most diverse selection of fauna in the country.

2) National Wildlife Day was first celebrated in September 2005 serves as an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage conservation of different animal species around the world.

3) In 2015, Friends of Big Bear Valley installed a webcam in a bald eagle nest, through which the public got their first glimpse of a female bald eagle named Jackie, who became an internet sensation as millions of viewers watched Jackie find a mate, lay eggs, protect her family, nurture her children, and successfully raise several eaglets over the last eight years, including eaglets Sandy and Luna, who fledged just this summer.

4) Earlier this July, after successfully raising her final two eaglets, Jackie was seriously injured, and despite the best efforts of the Ojai Raptor Center, ultimately passed away on August 10. During her life, Jackie touched the hearts

of people around the world as a fierce symbol of strength, freedom, motherhood, and the wild.

5) As the United States celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2026, the bald eagle carries a particularly meaningful place in the American story as our nation's enduring symbol of freedom, strength, and resilience. Jackie's life and legacy offer Californians an opportunity to reflect on those ideals while celebrating our responsibility to protect the wildlife and natural heritage entrusted to us.

This resolution proclaims September 4, 2026, to be California Wildlife Day in remembrance of Jackie the bald eagle, and that the Senate encourages Californians across the state to celebrate in her memory and in recognition of the importance of protecting California's extraordinary wildlife for generations to come.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

KFI AM640 (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
8/20/26 9:23:25

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2
Author: Lowenthal (D) and Patterson (R), et al.
Amended: 7/2/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Umberg

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 4-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/12/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Injuries to children: civil penalties

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, until January 1, 2035, increases the penalties that can be sought against a social media platform, as defined, if the platform fails to exercise ordinary care or skill and injures a child.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Provides, in federal law, that a provider or user of an interactive computer service shall not be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information

provided by another information content provider. (47 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 230(c)(1).)

2) Provides that a provider or user of an interactive computer service shall not be held liable on account of:

   a) any action voluntarily taken in good faith to restrict access to or availability of material that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected; or

   b) any action taken to enable or make available to information content providers or others the technical means to restrict access to such material. (47 U.S.C. § 230(c)(2).)

Existing state law:

1) Provides that every person is responsible, not only for the result of their willful acts, but also for an injury occasioned to another by the person's want of ordinary care or skill in the management of their property or person, except so far as the latter has, willfully or by want of ordinary care, brought the injury upon themselves. (Civ. Code § 1714(a) ("Section 1714(a)").)

2) Defines "social media platform" as a public or semipublic internet-based service or application that has users in California and that meets both of the following criteria:

   a) A substantial function of the service or application is to connect users in order to allow users to interact socially with each other within the service or application. A service or application that provides email or direct messaging services shall not be considered to meet this criterion on the basis of that function alone.
   b) The service or application allows users to do all of the following:
      i. Construct a public or semipublic profile for purposes of signing into and using the service or application.
      ii. Populate a list of other users with whom an individual shares a social connection within the system.
      iii. Create or post content viewable by other users, including, but not limited to, on message boards, in chat rooms, or through a landing page or main feed that presents the user with content generated by other users. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22675(e).)

This bill:

1) Provides that a social media platform that violates Section 1714(a) by causing injury to a child shall, in addition to any other remedy, be liable for statutory damages for the larger of the following:

    a) $5,000 per violation up to a maximum, per child, of $1,000,000.
    b) Three times the amount of the child's actual damages.

2) Aligns the definition of "social media platform" with that in Section 22675 of the Business and Professions Code, and limits application of this bill to those platforms that generate more than $100 million per year in gross revenues.

3) Provides that the duties, remedies, and obligations it imposes are cumulative to the duties, remedies, or obligations imposed under other law and shall not be construed to relieve a social media platform from any duties, remedies, or obligations imposed under any other law.

4) Provides that the above provisions shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2035, and will be repealed on that date.

5) Includes a severability clause and applies prospectively.

6) Provides that any attempted waiver is void and unenforceable.

7) States specified findings and declarations.

Background

Today, over 70% of adults use at least one social media platform. Facebook alone is used by 69% of adults, and 70% of those adults say they use the platform on a daily basis. However, this explosion is not limited to adults. Survey data found that overall screen use among teens and tweens increased by 17% from 2019 to 2021, with the number of hours spent online spiking sharply during the pandemic. A recent survey found almost 40% of tweens stated that they use social media and estimates from 2018 put the number of teens on the sites at over 70 percent. Given the reach of social media and the increasing role they play in many children's lives, concerns have arisen over the connection between social media usage and mental health, drug use, and other self-harming conduct.

This bill seeks to address these issues by simply enhancing the remedies that can be sought against a social media platform that breaches its existing duty of ordinary care and skill to a child. Based on existing causes of action under

negligence law, this bill provides for statutory damages of $5,000 to $1 million per violation or three times the amount of the child's actual damages, whichever is larger. Lastly, this bill provides that its provisions shall only remain in effect until January 1, 2035.

This bill is supported by various groups, including the Los Angeles County Office of Education and Common Sense Media. It is opposed by a number of industry associations, including Technet and the Computer and Communications Industry Association. For a more thorough analysis, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis.

Comments

Research has shown that amongst American teenagers, YouTube, Instagram, and Snapchat are the most popular social media sites, and 45% of teenagers stated that they are "online almost constantly."[1] A meta-analysis of research on social networking site (SNS) use concluded the studies supported an association between problematic SNS use and psychiatric disorder symptoms, particularly in adolescents.[2] The study found most associations were with depression and anxiety.

There are various features of social media that are believed to contribute to excessive social media use and preoccupation and attendant mental health issues in children and that are repeatedly highlighted as the most problematic for users, especially children. They are pinpointed by academic research,[3] and lawsuits brought by most states' Attorneys General,[4] as the core of the problem. These include the display of "likes" and other feedback on posted media that drive minors' unhealthy comparisons to others and their obsessive usage.

In addition, the constant notifications that are sent to users nudge them back onto a platform throughout the day and night to seek the next hit of dopamine. The biggest and most central of them all is the algorithmic feeds that are fueled by a user's own information and inferences drawn from their past behavior and data

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[1] Zaheer Hussain and Mark D Griffiths, *Problematic Social Networking Site Use and Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders: A Systematic Review of Recent Large-Scale Studies*."
(December 14, 2018) Frontiers in psychiatry vol. 9 686,
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6302102/pdf/fpsyt-09-00686.pdf. All internet citations are current as of August 13, 2026.
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] Kirsten Weir, *Social media brings benefits and risks to teens. Here's how psychology can help identify a path forward* (September 1, 2023) American Psychological Association,
https://www.apa.org/monitor/2023/09/protecting-teens-on-social-media.
[4] Matt Richtel, *Is Social Media Addictive? Here's What the Science Says* (October 25, 2023) The New York Times, **https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/25/health/social-media-addiction.html**.

collected from other sources. While these features can effectively serve up content curated for a user's personal tastes and create social connections among users, it is these types of features that are most concerning to advocates for reform.

Existing negligence law imposes a responsibility on everyone, including social media platforms, for injuries occasioned to others by their want of ordinary care or skill in the management of their property or person. This bill does not alter any existing duty. Rather, it seeks to acknowledge the unique impacts that social media platforms are shown to have on a particularly vulnerable population, California's children.

The bill does this by increasing the remedies that children may seek when social media platforms break this existing duty to refrain from causing them injury. The bill provides for statutory damages from $5,000 to $1 million per violation, per child or three times the child's actual damages, whichever is more.

According to the author:

> AB 2 amends Section 1714 of the Civil Code by adding statutory damages against platforms that are found in court to be liable under current law for negligently causing harm to children under the age of 18. Under the bill, if a company is proven to have failed to exercise its already established duty of operating with ordinary care, the company becomes financially liable for a set amount of $5,000 per violation, up to a maximum penalty of $1 million per child, or three times the amount of the child's actual damages, whichever is applicable. This financial liability aims to incentivize platforms who count their profits in the tens of billions to proactively safeguard children against potential harm by changing how they operate their platforms.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Unknown, potentially significant court cost pressure if the Attorney General (AG) brings civil actions for violations against any person who engages in a deceptive act or practice. Actual costs will depend on the number of actions filed and the amount of time needed to adjudicate each case.

Unknown, likely significant court cost pressure as the UCL permits private plaintiffs to bring a cause of action. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts. The proposed FY 2026-07 Governor's budget

would provide $70 million General Fund support (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Teachers Supporting Gender-nonconforming Youth
Children's Advocacy Institute
Common Sense Media
Consumer Federation of California
Healthier-tech
Hebrew Academy Community Day School
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Mama - West LA
Nextgen California
Organization for Social Media Safety
Parent Collective
Safe School Tech
Safe Social Media
San Mateo Foster City School District
Schools Beyond Screens San Diego
Tech Oversight Project Dba Tech Oversight California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Progress
Civil Justice Association of California
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Technet

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A coalition of organizations, including Common Sense Media, writes in support:

> This bill establishes statutory damages under California's existing negligence law for harms to minors related to social media that can be proven in court. That is the only change to California law that this bill makes. These financial penalties are needed and intended to motivate large social media companies to do what they currently refuse to do - ensure that the way they design and operate their platforms does not

injure young users. There is mounting evidence, including from internal company communications, that social media platforms contribute to our youth mental health crisis and to other direct harms to kids and teens, including accessing fentanyl and other illegal drugs.

As the use of social media continues to climb among children and adolescents, so too does the urgency for legislative action. AB 2 offers a path to mitigate the risks faced by our youth in an increasingly connected world, ensuring that social media companies operate with the due care our children deserve.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A group of industry associations, including Technet, write in opposition:

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (47 U.S.C. §230) generally protects platforms from liability for content that users generate with limited exceptions. This protection enables platforms to host third party content and moderate third-party content on their platforms without fear of liability.

Without the protections of Section 230, the internet ecosystem would be dramatically different with a limited ability for users to post, share, read, view, and discover the content of others.

Fortunately, Section 230 explicitly preempts state laws such as AB 2 that would conflict with this protection. This bill creates liability for platforms based on third party content by applying to any feature that allows users to encounter content. It effectively assumes that all features are harmful and imposes liability on a site for offering any of those features to children. Platforms' algorithms and features that allow users to encounter or share content from other users are inextricably linked to the underlying content. Therefore, by imposing liability on platforms for these features, AB 2 conflicts with Section 230 and is likely preempted.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/12/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste

Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Castillo, DeMaio, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Irwin, Lackey, Macedo, Petrie-Norris, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wilson

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548 / Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/14/26 10:38:11

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) 327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 54
Author: Krell (D) and Aguiar-Curry (D), et al.
Amended: 7/1/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-1, 6/25/25
AYES: Menjivar, Durazo, Gonzalez, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Grove
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 7/15/25
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-10, 5/12/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Access to Safe Abortion Care Act

SOURCE: All Above All
Attorney General Rob Bonta
Black Women for Wellness Action Project
California Commission on Status of Women and Girls
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Essential Health Access
National Health Law Program
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Reproductive Freedom for All California

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a manufacturer, distributor, authorized health care provider, pharmacist, or individual from being subject to civil or criminal liability, or professional disciplinary action, for accessing, mailing, shipping, receiving,

transporting, distributing, dispensing, or administering brand name or generic mifepristone or any drug used for medication abortion that is lawful under the laws of the state after January 1, 2020.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Reproductive Privacy Act (RPA), which prohibits the state from denying or interfering with a woman's right to choose or obtain an abortion prior to viability of the fetus, or when the abortion is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §123460, et seq.]

2) Prohibits a person who aids or assists a pregnant person in exercising their rights under RPA from being subject to civil or criminal liability or penalty, or otherwise being deprived of their rights, based solely on their actions to aid or assist a pregnant person in exercising their rights under RPA with the pregnant person's voluntary consent. [HSC §123467]

3) Provides that a law of another state that authorizes a person to bring a civil action against a person or entity who does any of the following is contrary to the public policy of this state: receives or seeks an abortion; performs or induces an abortion; knowingly engages in conduct that aids or abets the performance or inducement of an abortion; or, attempts or intends to engage in the aforementioned conduct. [HSC §123467.5]

This bill:

1) Prohibits a manufacturer, distributor, authorized health care provider, pharmacist, or individual from being subject to civil or criminal liability, or professional disciplinary action, for accessing, mailing, shipping, receiving, transporting, distributing, dispensing, or administering mifepristone or misoprostol after January 1, 2020, in accordance with state laws, applicable and accepted standards of care, and good faith compliance with this bill. Requires this bill to be applied retroactively to January 1, 2020.

2) States that, consistent with the public policy and constitutional guarantees of California, and to avoid any confusion or misinformation on the matter, the Legislature reaffirms that it has been, and shall continue to be, lawful to cause the delivery of, or mail, ship, take, receive, or otherwise transport, into California from out of state or within the boundaries of California, any drug,

medicine, or instrument that can be designed or adapted to produce an abortion that is lawful in the State of California.

3) Makes this bill's provisions severable: if any provision or its application is held invalid, that invalidity is prohibited from affecting other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

> In 2022, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 1 to enshrine the right to abortion in our state's constitution. As California remains a national leader in protecting reproductive rights, attacks on bodily autonomy continue throughout the country. Californians are not on an island, our patients and healthcare providers could be harmed by hostile actions from the federal government and other states. As former Chief Legal Counsel to Planned Parenthood, I fought federal efforts to eliminate access to reproductive care in the first Trump Administration. It is essential to ensure that the supply chain process from manufacturing, to distribution of medication abortion to a patient is protected in California. This bill shields manufacturers, distributers, and health care providers from liability for providing medication abortion to Californians.

Background

Abortion. According to the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), a legal induced abortion is defined as an intervention performed by a licensed clinician that is intended to terminate an ongoing pregnancy. Ending a pregnancy with medications is an option for women who are less than ten weeks pregnant and would like to have an abortion at home with a less invasive procedure. The CDC reports that 613,383 abortions were reported nationally from 48 reporting areas in 2022. From 2021 to 2022, the total number of abortions decreased 2%, and the number decreased 5% between 2013 and 2022. In 2022, women in their 20s accounted for more than half of abortions (56.5%). By contrast, adolescents under 15 years (0.2%) and women over 40 (3.6%) years accounted for the lowest percentages of abortions. In 2022, nearly all abortions (92.8%) were performed at or less than 13 weeks gestation. That year, the highest proportion of abortions were performed by early medication abortion at or less than nine weeks' gestation (53.3%), followed by surgical abortion at or less than 13 weeks gestation (35.5%), surgical abortion at more than 13 weeks gestation (6.9%), and medication abortion

at more than nine weeks gestation (4.3%). In 2021, the most recent year for which data was reviewed for pregnancy-related deaths, five women died as a result of complications from legal induced abortion.

California data. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 182,170 abortions were provided by clinicians in California in 2024, though not all those abortions were provided to state residents. In January 2025, there were an estimated 17,020 clinician-provided abortions, and that number was consistent with the previous six-month period (average of 15,000 abortions per month). Data for 2023, the first full year after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, show that an estimated total of 179,120 clinician-provided abortions took place in California (an increase of 1.7%).

Medication abortion. According to a March 2024 Kaiser Family Foundation factsheet, medication abortion is a pregnancy termination protocol that involves taking two different drugs approved for use up to the first 10 weeks of pregnancy by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The World Health Organization has authorized use up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. Since the FDA first approved the drug in 2000, its use in the U.S. has grown. In 2023, 63% of abortions in the U.S. were medication abortions. The most common medication abortion regimen involves the use of two different medications: mifepristone and misoprostol. Mifepristone, also known as the abortion pill or RU-486, is sold under the brand name Mifeprex and through a generic manufactured by GenBioPro. Mifepristone works by blocking progesterone, a hormone essential to the development of a pregnancy, and prevents an existing pregnancy from progressing. Misoprostol, taken 24 to 48 hours after mifepristone, works to empty the uterus by causing cramping and bleeding, similar to an early miscarriage. A follow-up visit can be scheduled a week or two later to confirm that the pregnancy was terminated via ultrasound or blood test. The FDA has found that medication abortion is a safe and highly effective method of pregnancy termination. Medication abortion successfully terminates the pregnancy 99.6% of the time, with a 0.4% risk of major complications, and a mortality rate of 0.00064%. Telehealth can be used to expand access to abortion services in areas where the number of clinicians who provide that care is limited. Many patients, particularly those who live in rural communities, must travel long distances to obtain abortion services even in states where abortion is still permitted. Because the updated FDA label now allows for telehealth, mifepristone has emerged as an option for patients who are either unable to travel to clinic or for other reasons wish to have an abortion in the privacy of their own home. As part of efforts to limit abortion access, some states have taken action to block the use of telehealth for abortion. Among the states that

have not banned abortion, 13 states have at least one restriction that requires at least one trip to the clinic, and effectively ban telehealth for medication abortion.

Post-Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022). According to the Guttmacher Institute website (and as of June 11, 2025), since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, 13 states are enforcing a near-total ban on abortion with very limited exceptions (Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia). In other states, less restrictive rules are in place and include: abortion being banned after six weeks (Florida, Georgia, Iowa, and South Carolina); a 12-week ban (Nebraska and North Carolina); and, an 18-23 week ban (Kansas, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin). In Arizona, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas mailing abortion pills is also banned. In Louisiana, medication abortion can only be provided after in-person visit because state requires pills to be dispensed in person.

According to a February 16, 2023 story in the *New York Times*, one commonality among many of the bans is that enforcement is enhanced through the targeting of medical providers. For example, in Texas it is a felony to perform an abortion, unless it is needed to save the life of the patient, and provides for civil liability and licensure revocation. The Texas law also provides that any person, other than an officer or employee of a state or local governmental entity in Texas, and regardless if they suffered any actual harm, may bring a civil action to enforce its provisions, which includes liability of $10,000 plus costs and fees if a plaintiff prevails while a defendant is prohibited from recovering their own costs and fees if they prevail. Idaho enacted a similar law, which provides for liability of $20,000 plus costs and fees if a plaintiff prevails. Oklahoma also enacted a similar law to Texas' and enacted criminal penalties for the performance of an abortion, except when performed to save the life of a pregnant person, with punishment of up to ten years in prison or fines of up to $100,000.

In January 2025, a New York physician was indicted in Louisiana for providing medication abortion across state lines. According to a March 19, 2025 NPR report, Dr. Margaret Carpenter was charged alongside a Louisiana mother who allegedly received the mailed package and gave the pills prescribed by Carpenter to her minor daughter. The teen wanted to keep the pregnancy and called 911 after taking the pills, according to an NPR interview with the Louisiana district attorney prosecuting the case. The charges carry a possible five-year prison sentence. On February 11, Louisiana's governor signed an extradition warrant for Carpenter. He later posted a video arguing she "must face extradition to Louisiana, where she can stand trial and justice will be served." New York's governor countered by releasing

her own video, confirming she was refusing to extradite Carpenter. According to a March 27, 2025 AP story, in a separate case involving Dr. Carpenter, a Texas judge ordered her to pay a penalty for allegedly breaking that state's law by prescribing abortion medication via telemedicine. The Texas attorney general's office followed up by asking a New York court to enforce the default civil judgment, which is $113,000 with attorney and filing fees. The acting Ulster County clerk refused, stating, “In accordance with the New York State Shield Law, I have refused this filing and will refuse any similar filings that may come to our office.” According to the March 2025 NPR report, eight states (New York, Maine, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) have passed laws since 2022 to protect doctors who mail abortion pills out of state, and thereby block them from extradition in such cases. But the Louisiana case is the first criminal test of these relatively new "shield laws."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

Senate Rule 28.8

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/25)

All Above All (co-source)
Attorney General Rob Bonta (co- source)
Black Women for Wellness Action Project (co- source)
California Commission on Status of Women and Girls (co- source)
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (co- source)
Essential Health Access (co- source)
National Health Law Program (co- source)
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (co- source)
Reproductive Freedom for All California (co- source)
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists- District IX
California Civil Liberties Advocacy
California Medical Association
California Nurse Midwives Association
California Primary Care Association Advocates
California Teachers Association
California Women Lawyers
Citizens for Choice
County of Los Angeles
Equality California
NextGen California
Osteopathic Medical Board of California

San Francisco Bay Area Black & Jewish Coalition
Women's Health Specialists
Women's Liberation Front
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/25)

California Family Council
Lighthouse Baptist Church
Pacific Justice Institute – Center for Public Policy
One individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The sponsors of this bill write that with over 20 years of available data, medication abortion has proven to be remarkably safe and effective. It plays an important role in reducing barriers and promoting equitable access to healthcare, particularly for those who live in rural and underserved communities. This bill will preserve the constitutional and statutory right to choose and obtain abortions in the state of California by ensuring there is sufficient access to medication abortion and the ability to facilitate access. Additionally, this bill shields manufacturers, distributors, authorized health care providers, or individuals from civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action, for accessing, mailing, shipping, receiving, transporting, distributing, or administering medication abortion in accordance with the law of this state, applicable and accepted standards of care, and good faith compliance. Sponsors further state that providers and researchers estimate that over 60% of all abortions in the U.S. are done using medication abortion. With over twenty years of available data, medication abortion has proven to be remarkably safe and effective. Medication abortion has only a 0.4% risk of major complications, and a mortality rate of only .00064%. To put these figures in perspective, this is lower than the mortality rate associated with Viagra, which carries a .0049% mortality rate. Using medication abortion is also far safer than carrying a pregnancy to term, as the U.S. has an overall maternal mortality rate of .0329%. Medication abortion allows people to get reproductive care as early as possible when it is safest, least expensive, and least invasive. It plays an important role in reducing barriers and promoting equitable access to healthcare, particularly for those who live in rural and underserved communities.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: California Family Council writes that this bill is working off of the pretense that Mifepristone is "safe and effective", yet the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) reports that 11% of women experience Serious Adverse Events within 45 days, 22 times higher than the drug label's

claim. This includes 3,062 ectopic pregnancies, 11,707 infections, 24,563 repeated surgical abortions, and 28,658 hemorrhages, alongside 1,445 FDA-reported adverse events. Reducing oversight in the face of such data is reckless, not compassionate. Pacific Justice Institute – Center for Public Policy states that this bill's expansion of legal protections for mailing and distributing abortion drugs would likely increase their use through channels like telehealth and pharmacies, further reducing critical medical oversight. The FDA has already weakened safety protocols by eliminating requirements for in-person physician visits, mandatory adverse event reporting, and limiting prescriptions to physicians. These changes have coincided with higher complication rates, as the EPPC study confirms. By facilitating broader distribution, this bill risks exacerbating these harms, leaving women vulnerable to severe complications like hemorrhaging or incomplete abortions, which often require urgent surgical intervention.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-10, 5/12/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, DeMaio, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta
NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen, Davies, Dixon, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Stefani, Tangipa

Prepared by: Melanie Moreno / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/20/25 23:06:51

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 69
Author: Calderon (D)
Amended: 8/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Padilla, Niello, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/5/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: FAIR Plan policy notices and renewals

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill enacts various provisions to assist California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan Association (FAIR Plan) policyholders in securing coverage outside of the FAIR Plan. These provisions include providing policyholder information to interested insurers and agents or brokers of record simultaneously, while also making policyholders aware of additional coverage options.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/17/26 address chaptering concerns, add coauthors and make minor technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the FAIR Plan to assure the stability of the property insurance market, to assure the availability of basic property insurance, as defined, to encourage maximum use of the normal insurance market in obtaining basic property insurance provided by admitted insurers and licensed surplus line brokers.

2) Provides, as part of the FAIR Plan, for the equitable distribution among admitted insurers of the responsibility for insuring qualified property for which basic property insurance cannot be obtained through the normal insurance market.

3) Specifies that rates for the FAIR Plan shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory, shall be actuarially sound so that premiums are adequate to cover expected losses, expenses and taxes, and shall reflect investment income of the plan.

4) Requires the FAIR Plan to develop and implement a residential clearinghouse program and a commercial clearinghouse program.

This bill:

1) Allows, commencing January 1, 2028, the FAIR Plan to share its policyholder information with insurers participating in its clearinghouse programs, with the goal of allowing such an insurer to offer their policies to FAIR Plan policyholders, enabling them to find insurance in the admitted market.

2) Requires under the provisions above, that if there is an agent or broker of record listed on a FAIR Plan policy, the interested insurer must make such a coverage offer simultaneously to both the FAIR Plan policyholder as well as the affiliated agent or broker of record.

3) Requires, beginning May 1, 2027, every admitted and non-admitted insurer that participates in the FAIR Plan clearinghouse programs to report to the FAIR Plan on a quarterly basis the number of policies the insurer has issued to its policyholders. The FAIR Plan must then report aggregated numbers within 30 days to the Insurance Commissioner, the Assembly Committee on Insurance, and the Senate Committee on Insurance, and post the aggregated numbers on its website.

4) States the FAIR Plan must provide its policyholders with annual notice, as specified, that policyholders should consider contacting their broker to determine if other coverage is available.

5) Specifies that the FAIR Plan must require registered agents and brokers to complete its Brokers and FAIR Plan course, which provides training on the FAIR Plan's and the broker's responsibility to advise policyholders on the voluntary market options.

6) Adds the requirement that an agent or broker must assist a person seeking their help in obtaining basic property insurance coverage by providing information on the FAIR Plan's clearinghouse programs.

7) Requires that the FAIR Plan must post a list of admitted and nonadmitted insurers that participate in its clearinghouse programs on its website, and update that list quarterly.

8) Includes provisions to address chaptering issues with AB 1680 (Calderon, 2026) and AB 2061 (Chen, 2026).

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1680 (Calderon, 2026). Creates greater ability for the California Department of Insurance to ensure accountability and coverage options in the FAIR Plan. Pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 226 (Calderon, Chapter 473, Statutes of 2025). Authorized the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank), upon the request of the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan Association (FAIR Plan) to issue bonds to finance the costs of claims, to increase liquidity, and claims-paying capacity of the FAIR Plan, and to refund bonds previously issued for that purpose. Required the FAIR Plan, with the approval of the Insurance Commissioner, to assess all members to pay all loan payments and the costs and expenses relating to a loan agreement with IBank, as well as to assess all members to repay a line of credit and its related costs and expenses.

AB 2260 (Calderon, 2024). Would have required the FAIR Plan, until December 31, 2027, to quarterly provide specified information about policies and clearinghouse program progress to the Insurance Commissioner, the Assembly Committee on Insurance, and the Senate Committee on Insurance, and to post the information on the association's public internet website. The bill would have also required the broker of record of an insurance policy that has been placed in the FAIR Plan to determine, prior to the renewal of the policy, whether the policy can be moved to a voluntary market insurance company. Not heard in Senate Insurance Committee.

SB 505 (Rubio, Chapter 180, Statutes of 2023). Required, by July 1, 2024, the FAIR Plan to establish a clearinghouse program for commercial insurance policies.

AB 3012 (Wood and Daly, Chapter 258, Statutes of 2020). Directed the Fair Plan to implement a clearinghouse program whereby property insurers will be provided

information about FAIR Plan policies, for the purpose of encouraging those insurers to offer regular private insurance to FAIR Plan policyholders.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance
California Apartment Association
California Building Industry Association
California FAIR Plan Association
Community Associations Institute - California Legislative Action Committee
Emeryville; City of
Orange County Business Council
Surplus Line Association of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

The California Apartment Association states:

"The California FAIR Plan was created in 1968, with the purpose to be the "insurer of last resort" for "basic" property insurance in the event of a market failure. At its inception, it was essentially for urban commercial property. Ultimately, it has expanded to include residential insurance anywhere in the state, provided that the insurance "cannot be obtained" in the normal manner in the market. At origination, the FAIR Plan was not intended to compete with the market. Under the current climate of the California insurance market, the FAIR Plan is under pressure as the "take-all" insurer of last resort. AB 69's goal is to make sure that once policies are part of the FAIR Plan they don't stay there if, and only and if, they can transition to a market plan. This will help maintain the solvency of the FAIR Plan – which is a critical step to stabilizes the state's insurance market."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/5/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen,

Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ortega

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
8/18/26 16:10:22

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 220
Author: Jackson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/25/25
AYES: Menjivar, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

PRIOR SENATE FLOOR VOTE NOT RELEVANT

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/29/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Medi-Cal: subacute care services

SOURCE: Totally Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

DIGEST: This bill requires a provider seeking authorization for subacute care services to submit a specified form with the treatment authorization request. Prohibits Medi-Cal managed care plans from developing or using their own criteria to substantiate medical necessity for subacute care services or from requiring subsequent treatment authorization requests for subacute care services after a patient returns from a bed hold for acute hospitalization.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/25/26 remove the requirement that Medi-Cal managed care plans use specified Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) forms to authorize subacute care services and instead require plans to authorize such services should a provider substantiate that a patient meets the specified criteria for subacute care services; require plans to use only a standard form developed by DHCS for the authorization of subacute care services if DHCS develops such a form; and make additional organizational changes to more clearly delineate the criteria for these services.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the DHCS, and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. [Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] §14000, et seq.]

2) Establishes a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program, which includes benefits required under federal law and benefits provided at the state's option, both of which are funded with federal and state dollars. [WIC §14132]

3) Establishes that a health care service is medically necessary when it is reasonable and necessary to protect life, prevent significant illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain, as well as all services covered under the federal early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment for individuals under 21 years of age. [WIC §14059.5]

4) Requires DHCS to establish a subacute care program in health facilities to patients who meet subacute care criteria. [WIC §14132.25]

5) Requires medical necessity for pediatric subacute care services to be substantiated in one of five specific ways that specify the combinations of treatment upon which a patient is dependent. [WIC §14132.25]

6) Specifies that the pediatric medical necessity determination is intended solely for the evaluation of a patient who is potentially eligible and meets the criteria to be transferred from an acute care setting to a subacute level of care. [WIC §14132.25]

7) Allows bed holds of up to seven days for patients in skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities who are ordered by the attending physician into acute hospitalization. [Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) §51535.1]

8) Allows the DHCS director to terminate contracts with or impose sanctions on Medi-Cal managed care plans for failing to comply with contract requirements, federal or state law or regulations, the state plan or approved waivers or for other good cause. Sanctions include temporary or permanent suspension orders of enrollment, marketing, personnel, or subcontractors, and monetary sanctions

of up to $25,000 for first violations, up to $50,000 for second violations, and up to $100,000 for subsequent violations. [WIC §14197.7]

9) Establishes the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative effective from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2026, which includes new requirements on Medi-Cal plans, new Medi-Cal populations subject to mandatory Medi-Cal plan enrollment, and new mandatory plan benefits, including subacute care services. [WIC §14184.100 et seq., WIC]

This bill:

1) Prohibits a Medi-Cal plan from imposing additional criteria for subacute care services if a provider substantiates that a patient meets any of the criteria specified in state law.

2) Requires a Medi-Cal plan to deem as sufficient a standardized form developed by DHCS for purposes of authorization and reauthorization of subacute care services, should DHCS develop such a form. Also prohibits Medi-Cal plans from developing their own subacute care services authorization or reauthorization form if a DHCS form exists.

3) Prohibits a Medi-Cal plan from requiring a subsequent treatment authorization request for subacute care services when a patient returns from a bed hold for acute hospitalization as described in existing regulation.

4) Specifies that DHCS may impose sanctions on Medi-Cal plans for violations of 2) and 3) above, in accordance with existing law.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> This bill is crucial for enhancing the care and support provided to patients who require subacute medical services. The bill aims to optimize the use of limited Medi-Cal funds while ensuring that patients receive the necessary medical attention tailored to their specific needs. Furthermore, it addresses the unique needs of pediatric patients relying on complex medical technologies, underscoring the commitment to provide comprehensive and equitable health care services. Overall, this legislation is a vital step toward improving patient outcomes by ensuring patients receive services aligned with their medical needs within an appropriate facility.

Medi-Cal subacute care program. According to DHCS, subacute care facility services include those provided to both adult and pediatric populations that are provided by a licensed general acute care hospital with distinct-part skilled nursing beds, or by a freestanding certified nursing facility. In each case, the facility must have the necessary contract with DHCS. Subacute care patients are medically fragile and require special services, such as inhalation therapy, tracheotomy care, intravenous tube feeding, and complex wound management care. Adult subacute care is defined as a level of care needed by a patient who does not require hospital acute care but who requires more intensive licensed skilled nursing care than is provided to the majority of patients in a skilled nursing facility. Pediatric subacute care is a level of care needed by a person less than 21 years of age who uses a medical technology that compensates for the loss of a vital bodily function.

Recently, as part of the CalAIM initiative, DHCS moved many populations into mandatory managed care who were previously receiving services through the Medi-Cal fee-for-service delivery system, including some pediatric or adult subacute care services, depending on the county the individual lived in, that were not already part of Medi-Cal managed care. As of January 1, 2024, many individuals who were previously receiving subacute care services through the fee-for-service system were moved into managed care plans. According to the DHCS All Plan Letter 24-010, as part of the transition, Medi-Cal plans were required to offer contracts to all subacute care facilities within their service area that had a contract with DHCS. They were also required to develop sufficient network capacity to enable member placement in subacute care facilities within five working days, seven working days, or 14 calendar days depending on the county of residence. The letter also outlined requirements to allow Medi-Cal recipients to return to a facility after a leave of absence or a bed hold, which generally occurs when a patient temporarily needs a higher level of care in a hospital. While the guidance required Medi-Cal plans to honor DHCS treatment approvals for either six months or the duration of approval of services, whichever is shorter, Medi-Cal plans are now responsible for treatment authorization. The guidance also required all prior authorization requests to be expedited for Medi-Cal recipients transitioning from an acute care hospital to a subacute care facility and all decisions to be made within 72 hours after the Medi-Cal plan receives relevant information from the plan.

When subacute care services were part of the fee-for-service delivery system, providers used either form DHCS 6200, "Information For Authorization/Reauthorization of Subacute Care Services—Pediatric Subacute Program" or form DHCS 6200A, "Information For Authorization/Reauthorization

of Subacute Care Services—Adult Subacute Program" to establish whether the services were medically necessary in order to receive authorization for the services. The forms specified the services that a patient needed that necessitated subacute care services. Now that the program is part of Medi-Cal managed care, each plan has its own forms and methods of documenting medical necessity. Providers report these forms and processes are leading to delays in moving patients from acute care settings to subacute care settings.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill has unknown ongoing costs, potentially low hundreds of thousands, for DHCS for state administration for oversight of Medi-Cal plans (General Fund and federal funds).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Totally Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (source)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Medical Product Suppliers
California Children's Hospital Association
California Hospital Association
California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association
Children's Healthcare of Northern California
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
District Hospital Leadership Forum
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Sponsor, Totally Kids Rehabilitation, a pediatric subacute facility, writes that this bill closes loopholes used by Medi-Cal plans to delay and deny care to children and adults who utilize Medi-Cal for payment. Totally Kids Rehabilitation was involved in determining the original criteria for 'medical necessity' when their program was implemented. However, in January 2024, CalAIM transitioned subacute care services and Medi-Cal plans have redefined 'medical necessity' for subacute care, as complex and some cases now require stacks of paperwork to resolve. These demands mean that people in need of

care must wait in acute care hospitals for weeks waiting for transfer to the appropriate facility. Additionally, when they finally did establish medical necessity for care, they only authorized this for two weeks rather than a year as had been done previously.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/29/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Bryan, Chen, Nguyen, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Tangipa, Ward

Prepared by: Jen Flory / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 18:56:30

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 387
Author: Alanis (R)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 3/13/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Nevaeh Youth Sports Safety Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill revises the requirement that a youth sports organization ensure its athletes have access to an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) during any official practice or match, starting January 1, 2028, by allowing a public or private local facility with a permanent sports infrastructure to procure and maintain an AED, in which case the public or private local facility would be responsible for ensuring access to the AED.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 clarify that a public or private local facility or its employees are not required to procure or install an AED or to operate or administer an AED in the event of a cardiac emergency, and that this bill does not affect the availability of any otherwise applicable immunity.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines a "youth sports organization" as an organization, business, nonprofit entity, or a local governmental agency that sponsors or conducts amateur sports competitions, training, camps, or clubs in which persons 17 years of age or younger participate. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §124235(b)(4)]

2) Requires a youth sports organization, beginning January 1, 2028, to ensure that its athletes have access to an AED during any official practice or match, defined as a sport session in which live action or one or more drills are conducted, or a match, as scheduled by the youth sports organization, the coach, or other designee of the organization. [HSC §124238 and §124238.5]

3) Requires, beginning January 1, 2027, a youth sports organization to ensure that its coaches are certified, and recertified every two years, to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and operate an AED and that there is a written cardiac emergency response plan, as specified. [HSC §124238.5(b)]

4) Requires a youth sports organization to comply with certain requirements related to athletes suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, or who has passed out or fainted, including removal from the athletic activity and a prohibition on returning until he or she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider. Requires youth sports organizations to give both a concussion and head injury information sheet, and a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) information sheet, to each athlete on an annual basis. [HSC §124235]

5) Requires each coach, administrator, and referee, umpire, or other game official of the youth sports organization to successfully complete concussion and head injury and SCA prevention education at least once, either online or in person, before supervising an athlete in an activity of the youth sports organization. [HSC §124235(a)(5)]

6) Requires "SCA prevention education and educational materials" and a "SCA information sheet" to include, at a minimum, information relating to cardiac conditions and their potential consequences, the signs and symptoms of SCA, best practices for removal of an athlete from an athletic activity after fainting or a suspected cardiac condition is observed, steps for returning an athlete to activity, and what to do in the event of a cardiac emergency, which includes calling 911, performing hands-only CPR, and using an AED if available. [HSC §124235(b)(3)]

7) Establishes the California Youth Football Act, which establishes additional requirements on youth sports organizations that conduct a tackle football program, including requiring a minimum of one certified emergency medical technician, state-licensed paramedic, or higher-level medical professional to be present during all games, and requiring coaches to annually receive first aid, CPR, and AED certification. [HSC §124240, et seq. and §124241(h) and (i)]

8) Requires, as part of the California Youth Football Act, that at least one independent nonrostered individual, appointed by the youth sports organization, to be present at all practice locations, and requires the individual to hold current certifications in first aid, CPR, AED, and concussion protocols. [HSC §124241(j)]

9) Requires a school district or charter school that offers any interscholastic athletic program to acquire at least one AED for each school that participates in the program, and encourages the school district or charter school to ensure that the AED is available for the purpose of rendering emergency care or treatment within a recommended three to five minutes of SCA to pupils, spectators, and any other individuals in attendance at the program's on-campus activities or events, and to ensure that the AED is available to athletic trainers and coaches and authorized persons at these activities or events. [Education Code [EDC] §35179.6]

10) Requires a person or entity that acquires an AED to comply with all regulations governing its placement, notify an agent of the local emergency medical services agency of the existence, location, and type of AED acquired, ensure that the AED is maintained and tested according to the operation and maintenance guidelines of the manufacturer, ensure that it is tested at least biannually and after each use, ensure that an inspection is made of all AEDs on the premises at least every 90 days for potential issues related to operability, and ensure that maintenance and testing records are maintained. [HSC §1797.196]

11) Exempts a person or entity that acquires an AED for emergency use from liability for any civil damages resulting from the use of the AED if the person or entity has complied with the requirements in 8) above. [Civil Code [CIV] §1714.21(d)]

12) Exempts any person who, in good faith and not for compensation, renders emergency care or treatment by use of an AED at the scene of an emergency

from liability for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in rendering the emergency care. [CIV §1714.21(b)]

This bill:

1) Revises the requirement that a youth sports organization ensure its athletes have access to an AED during any official practice or match, by assigning responsibility for ensuring access to an AED as follows:

   a) Permits a public or private local facility with a permanent sports infrastructure, as defined by this bill, to procure and maintain an AED for use during an official practice or match permitted by the facility, and in these cases, requires the facility to ensure that the youth sports organization as access to the AED; or,

   b) If an AED is not available at a public or private local facility, requires the youth sports organization to ensure there is access to an AED.

2) Defines "permanent sports infrastructure," as a fixed, nontemporary facility or structure designed and maintained for the purpose of hosting organized sports activities that is regularly permitted, rented, leased, or otherwise granted permission of use for youth sports programs.

3) Clarifies that a public or private local facility with a permanent sports infrastructure, in addition to a youth sports organization, is required to ensure that its AED is maintained and tested.

4) Requires a public or private local facility to work in collaboration with the youth sports organization to ensure that any AED that is installed at the public or private local facility is accessible to youth sports organizations at the time of official practices or matches permitted by the facility.

5) Requires a public or private local facility that has installed an AED at the facility to work with the youth sports organization to identify means to share the financial costs associated with ensuring that the AED is maintained and accessible at the facility.

6) Prohibits this bill from being construed to require a public or private local facility or its employees from being required to procure or install an AED or to operate or administer an AED in the event of a cardiac emergency.

7) Prohibits this bill from being construed to impose a mandatory duty pursuant to a provision of law that specifies that where a public entity is under a mandatory duty designed to protect against the risk of a particular kind of injury, the public entity is liable for an injury of that kind proximately caused by its failure to discharge the duty.

8) Prohibits this bill from being construed to affect the availability of any immunity otherwise applicable to the public or private local facility or its employees.

Background

According to the author:

> This bill would require public or private local facilities with a permanent sports infrastructure, that have installed an AED, ensure youth sports organizations have access to those AEDs. SCA is the number one killer of student athletes. Having an AED present during official practices or matches can be the difference between life and death for youth athletes. Timely intervention of SCA remains critical for the safety of youth athletes. This bill would continue to require youth sports organizations to be responsible for ensuring athletes have access to AEDs during official practices or matches if the facility has not installed an AED.

Background on SCA. According to the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute, SCA is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating, and usually causes death if not treated within minutes. SCA is not the same as a heart attack. A heart attack is when blood flow to the heart is blocked (a "circulation" problem), and SCA is when the heart malfunctions and suddenly stops beating unexpectedly (an "electrical" problem). However, SCA can happen after or during recovery from a heart attack. Ventricular fibrillation (v-fib), a type of arrhythmia, causes most SCAs. During v-fib, the heart's lower chambers do not beat normally, and instead quiver very rapidly and irregularly and little or no blood is pumped to the body. Other problems with the heart's electrical system can also cause SCA. For example, SCA can occur if the rate of the heart's electrical signals becomes very slow and stops. SCA also can occur if the heart muscle does not respond to the heart's electrical signals. Coronary heart disease; severe physical stress; certain inherited disorders; and structural changes in the heart can also cause SCA.

According to the American College of Cardiology (ACC), when playing sports, an athlete's heart is working faster and pumping harder. Adrenaline is pumped throughout the body, and the heart needs more oxygen than normal. Dehydration, fever, or changes in electrolytes can also play a part. In people whose hearts are not normal to begin with, these extra stresses can sometimes trigger the electrical system of the heart and cause SCA. While rare, SCA is the leading medical cause of death in young athletes. ACC states that warning signs during exercise include passing out, dizziness, chest pain, shortness of breath, and seizures. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that every year in the U.S., approximately 2,000 patients younger than 25 years will die of SCA. The likelihood of child and young adult SCA for those with underlying cardiovascular disease is increased by athletic participation. According to a study published in December 2017, a loss of consciousness in athletes during sports activity is usually not immediately recognized as SCA and time is wasted by checking breathing and body movement. Immediate CPR and defibrillation with an AED should be initiated if an athlete is experiencing SCA. Without defibrillation, the probability of surviving declines by 10% per minute.

Background on AEDs. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), an AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can stop an irregular rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume in a heart in SCA. The AED has a built-in computer, which assesses the patient's heart rhythm, determines whether the person is in cardiac arrest, and signals whether to administer the shock. Inside the AED box are pads and a diagram that shows where to place them on the bare skin. Once the device is turned on, a voice tells the person using it exactly what to do. The AHA states that more than 15% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in a public location, and therefore public access to AEDs and community training have a large role to play in early defibrillation. However, the number of patients who have an AED applied by a bystander remains low, occurring after only 10.2% of public cardiac arrests. According to the AHA, nine in ten cardiac arrest victims who receive a shock from an AED in the first minute live. The AHA states that children over age eight can be treated with a standard AED, and for children ages one through eight, the AHA recommends the pediatric attenuated pads that are purchased separately.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 310 (Alanis, Chapter 254, Statutes of 2025) delayed the implementation of the requirement, from January 1, 2027 to January 1, 2028, that youth sports organizations ensure their athletes have access to an AED during any official

practice or match. AB 310 requires youth sports organizations to ensure their coaches are certified to perform CPR and operate an AED, and have a written cardiac emergency response plan, beginning January 1, 2028.

AB 1467 (Alanis, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2023) requires a youth sports organization that elects to offer an athletic program to ensure that by January 1, 2027, its athletes have access to an AED during any official practice or match.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

American Youth Soccer Organization
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
Eric Paredes Save a Life Foundation
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

All prior opposition was to a previous version of this bill.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill is supported by AYSO, which states that this bill represents a thoughtful, practical approach to improving athlete safety without placing undue burdens on the volunteer-driven programs that form the backbone of youth sports. This bill allows organizations to continue delivering safe, inclusive, and accessible opportunities for children to play, grow, and thrive. AYSO states that passing this bill is vital to ensuring youth sports remain a positive and sustainable part of California's communities.

The Eric Paredes Save a Life Foundation supports this bill, stating that this bill builds upon California's existing youth sports safety standards by closing a loophole requiring public and private local facilities with permanent sports infrastructure to procure, maintain, and provide access to AEDs during youth sports activities. According to the Eric Paredes Save a Life Foundation, SCA is the leading cause of death on school campuses and number one killer of student athletes, and that an estimated 23,000 youth are stricken annually by cardiac conditions across the country. Fragmented youth leagues often travel across various fields and lack the financial capability or permanent authority to manage

physical hardware at the facilities they rent. This bill ensures life-saving equipment remains reliably on-site, fully functional, and accessible precisely when a cardiac emergency happens.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 3/13/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bauer-Kahan, Essayli, Gabriel, Garcia, Hadwick, Hart, Irwin, Lee, Ortega, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Valencia, Ward

Prepared by: Vincent D. Marchand / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/26/26 11:49:52

****** END ******

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE AB 540
Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) 327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 540
Author: Connolly (D)
Introduced: 2/11/25
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 7/1/25
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 4/1/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Motions: filing and service requirements

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill removes the two-day extension to procedural timelines where service is effectuated by electronic service.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines the following relevant terms:

   a) "Electronic service" means service of a document, on a person, by either electronic transmission of electronic notification; electronic service may be performed directly by a person, including a party or a person's attorney, or through an electronic service provider, and by a court.
   b) "Electronic transmission" means the transmission of a document by electronic means to the electronic service address at or through which a person receives electronic service.
   c) "Electronic notification" means the notification of the person that a document is served by sending an electronic message to the electronic address at or through which the person receives electronic service,

specifying the exact name of the document served, and providing a hyperlink at which the served document may be viewed and downloaded. (Code of Civil Procedure (Code Civ. Proc.) § 1010.6(a)(1).)

2) Permits electronic service of documents in a civil action, consistent with specified requirements, except that a document is required to be served by certified or registered mail, electronic service of the document is not authorized. (Code Civ. Proc.) § 1010.6(a).)

3) Provides for mandatory electronic service in a civil action as follows:

   a) The court may order electronic service on a person represented by counsel who has appeared in an action or proceeding.
   b) A person represented by counsel, who has appeared in an action or proceeding, shall accept electronic service of a notice or document that may be served by mail, express mail, overnight delivery, or facsimile transmission.
   c) Before first serving a represented person electronically, the person effecting service shall confirm the appropriate electronic service address for the counsel being served.
   d) A person represented by counsel shall, upon request of any person who has appeared in an action or proceeding and who provides an electronic service address, electronically serve the requesting person with any notice or document that may be served by mail, express mail, overnight delivery, or facsimile transmission. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(b).)

4) Provides that an unrepresented person may consent to electronic service in a civil action, provided that the person gave express consent; the unrepresented person may withdraw consent at any time by filing the appropriate Judicial Council form with the court. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(c).)

5) Provides that, on or after July 1, 2025, in any action in which a party or other person is subject to mandatory electronic service or has consented to electronic service, the court shall electronically transmit to such persons any document issued by the court that the court is required to transmit, deliver, or serve. This service shall have the same legal effect as service by mail except as provided. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(d).)

6) Provides that if a document may be served by mail, express mail, overnight delivery, or facsimile transmission, electronic service of that document is deemed complete at the time of the electronic transmission of the document or

at the time that the electronic notification of service of the document is sent. Any period of notice, or any right or duty to do any act or make any response within any period or on a date certain after the service of the document, which time period or date is prescribed by statute or rule of court, shall be extended after service by electronic means by two court days, but the extension shall not apply to extend the time for filing any of the following:

a) A notice of intention to move for new trial.
b) A notice of intention to move to vacate judgment under Section 663a.
c) A notice of appeal.

7) Provides that notice and a motion for summary judgment must be served on all parties at least 81 days before the scheduled hearing, and that if the notice is served by facsimile transmission, express mail, or another method of delivery providing for overnight delivery the required 81-day notice period is increased by two court days. (Code Civ. Proc. § 437c(a)(2).)

8) Provides that all moving and supporting papers for certain motions must be served and filed at least 16 court days before the hearing, and that if the notice of motion is served by facsimile transmission, express mail, or another method of delivery providing for overnight delivery the required 16-day notice period is increased by two court days. (Code Civ. Proc. § 1005(b).)

This bill removes the two-day extension to procedural timelines where service is effectuated by electronic service.

Background

The Code of Civil Procedure establishes various timelines for serving and filing notices and motions and supporting or responsive documentation. The relevant statutes extend these timelines in certain situations. For instance, if the notice is served by facsimile transmission, express mail, or another method of delivery providing for overnight delivery, the relevant period is generally extended by two days.

Current law establishes rules and procedures for the electronic service of documents in civil cases, including providing which parties must make and accept, and which parties may elect to make and accept, service through electronic means. The relevant statute provides that any period of notice, which time period or date is prescribed by statute or rule of court, shall be extended after service by electronic means by two court days, except as specified. This bill clarifies that these two-day

extensions do not apply to electronic service. This bill is supported by the Child Support Directors Association of California. No timely opposition has been received.

Comments

Electronic service—which can be service by email or through an electronic filing service[1]—has come a long way in the past quarter of a century. Code of Civil Procedure section 1010.6 (Section 1010.6), which governs electronic service in civil actions, was enacted in 1999 as a modest provision allowing trial courts to adopt local rules for electronic filing and service of documents and giving the Judicial Council until January 1, 2003, to adopt uniform rules of electronic filing and service.[2] As the internet became more ubiquitous and electronically transmitting documents became easier to do, Section 1010.6 grew to accommodate an increasing interest in electronic service.
Most of Section 1010.6 is directed at when parties may serve each other electronically. As a general rule, represented parties must accept electronic service, and serve any party electronically who requests it, whereas unrepresented parties cannot be served electronically unless they affirmatively consent to such service.[3]

Until 2021, Section 1010.6 stated only that courts may elect to electronically serve parties who had consented, or were required, to accept electronic service; there was no requirement that courts electronically serve anyone. Then in 2021, the Legislature enacted SB 241 (Umberg, Ch. 214, Stats. 2021) which, among other things, set a deadline for the courts to transmit documents electronically to parties who are required or have requested to accept electronic service. Specifically, SB 241 required courts to begin electronically transmitting, to parties required or consenting to accept electronic service, documents that the court is required to transmit, deliver, or serve, beginning July 1, 2024.[4] AB 2283 (Pacheco, Ch. 151, Stats. 2024) later extended this timeline by a year to July 1, 2025, and changed "transmit" to "serve."

Section 1010.6 further provides that any period of notice, or any right or duty to do any act or make any response within any period or on a date certain after the service of the document, which time period or date is prescribed by statute or rule of court, shall be extended after service by electronic means by two court days, except as specified.

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[1] Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(a).
[2] SB 367 (Dunn, Ch. 514, Stats. 1999).
[3] Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(b), (c).)
[4] *See id.*, § 1010.6(d).

This bill removes this two-day extension.

Procedural timelines for service in civil actions. After the filing of a lawsuit, either party to an action may move for summary judgment by contending that the action has no merit or that there is no defense thereto. Essentially, the party filing the motion is claiming that all necessary factual issues are resolved and need not be tried by the court because they are so one-sided. A motion for summary judgment must be supported or opposed by admissible evidence such as affidavits, declarations, admissions, answers to interrogatories, depositions, and requests for judicial notice, as appropriate.

The law sets out specific timelines for filing and responding to motions for summary judgment. Currently, the motion may be filed anytime after 60 days have elapsed since the general appearance of the responding party. The motion must be served with supporting papers at least 81 days before the hearing. This timeline is increased by two court days if the notice is served by facsimile transmission, express mail, or another method of delivery providing for overnight delivery.

This bill clarifies that this two-day extension does not apply to electronic service.

Existing law governing civil procedure establishes various timelines for serving and filing other notices and motions and supporting or responsive documentation. The relevant statutes extend these timelines in certain situations. Unless otherwise ordered or specifically provided by law, all moving and supporting papers shall be served and filed at least 16 court days before the hearing. If the notice is served by facsimile transmission, express mail, or another method of delivery providing for overnight delivery, that period is extended by two calendar days.

This bill clarifies that this two-day extension does not apply to electronic service.

According to the author:

> The purpose of AB 540 is to eliminate inconsistencies in civil procedure laws regarding electronic service deadlines. By explicitly stating that electronic service does not require an extension of the notice period, AB 540 streamlines litigation procedures, reduces confusion, and ensures fairness among parties using different service methods. The bill amends the Code of Civil Procedure to make these clarifications and conform procedural rules accordingly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/3/25)

Child Support Directors Association of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/3/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Child Support Directors Association of California writes:

[This] bill removes ambiguity by confirming that electronic service of motions does not trigger additional notice periods—an update that not only reflects current practice but also reduces unnecessary delays in proceedings that deeply impact the families we serve.

By authoring AB 540, you have helped ensure that child support cases can move forward without the risk of procedural confusion over filing timelines. This bill will make a real and positive difference in the lives of parents and children across the state.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 4/1/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Essayli, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Bennett, Davies, Wicks

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
7/7/25 15:50:02

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 605
Author: Muratsuchi (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 4-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Allen, Gonzalez, Menjivar
NOES: Valladares, Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/4/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Employment: refineries: task force

SOURCE: United Steelworkers District 12

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Refinery Safe Staffing Task Force (Task Force) to develop potential methods and strategies for ensuring maximum employee retention at refineries, during, and especially in the time period preceding, a refinery closure, and for addressing employment dislocations associated with oil, gas, and related industries, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 1) shift two of the fourteen appointments on the Task Force from legislative to gubernatorial appointments, specifically the amendments task the Governor with appointing all three refinery employer representatives; and 2) provide that the Task Force's recommendations may be considered in collective bargaining but are not binding.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, under the California Occupational Safety and Health Act, an employer to:

   a) Furnish employment and a place of employment that is safe and healthful.

   b) Furnish and use safety devices and safeguards, as well as adopt and use practices, means, methods, operations, and processes that are reasonably adequate to render employment and the place of employment safe and healthful.

   c) Do everything reasonably necessary to protect the life, safety, and health of employees.(Labor Code §6300 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to, among other things, propose, administer, and enforce occupational safety and health standards. (Labor Code §6300 et seq.)

3) Directs the Standards Board and Cal/OSHA, in accordance with the California Refinery and Health Standards Board Act of 1990, to promote worker safety through implementation of training and process safety management (PSM) practices in refineries and chemical plants and other facilities deemed appropriate. (Labor Code §7852(a))

4) Defines "refinery" as an establishment that produces gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, or biofuel through the processing of crude oil or alternative feedstock. (Labor Code §7853(c))

5) Defines "process safety management" as the application of management programs, which are not limited to engineering guidelines, when dealing with the risks associated with handling or working near hazardous chemicals. PSM is intended to prevent or minimize the consequences of catastrophic releases of acutely hazardous, flammable, or explosive chemicals. (Labor Code §7853(b))

This bill:

1) Establishes the Refinery Safe Staffing Task Force (Task Force) consisting of the following members:

a) Three representatives of unions representing proprietary employees at refineries, as specified, one each appointed by the Governor or their appointed DIR PSM Unit regional manager, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Committee on Rules, respectively.

b) Three representatives of unions representing building trades whose members serve as contractors at refineries, one each appointed by the Governor or their appointed DIR PSM Unit regional manager, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Committee on Rules, respectively.

c) Three representatives of refinery employers appointed by the Governor or their appointed DIR PSM Unit regional manager.

d) Three representatives of nongovernmental organizations whose mission relates to the well-being of workers and refinery communities, one each appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Committee on Rules, respectively.

e) Two members of the public with expertise in refinery process safety, to be appointed by the Governor or their appointed DIR PSM Unit regional manager.

2) Requires all members of the Task Force to be appointed and begin serving no later than January 1, 2028.

3) Provides that the members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation, except that they shall receive, upon appropriation of funds for this purpose, their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, including traveling expenses.

4) Requires the Task Force to select one of its members to be its chair. Provides that the Task Force shall have all of the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth in these provisions.

5) Provides that the Task Force shall consult with, and may utilize, the staff of the DIR PSM Unit.

6) Provides that the purpose of the Task Force shall be to develop potential methods and strategies for ensuring maximum employee retention at refineries, during, and especially in the time period preceding, a refinery closure or long-

term idling of a refinery, and for addressing employment dislocations associated with oil, gas, and related industries.

7) Requires, no later than June 1, 2029, the Task Force to present to the Legislature, and make available online to the public, a report documenting a wide range of potential methods and strategies for ensuring maximum employee retention in the time period preceding refinery closure or long-term idling of a refinery, including, without limitation, any of the following:

   a) Extended severance periods.

   b) Paid job training.

   c) Extended job placement assistance.

   d) Priority transfer to other refineries.

   e) Financial and logistical assistance.

8) Requires the report in 7) to consider a wide range of methods and strategies for ensuring safe operation in the event of understaffing and include potential methods and strategies for transitioning oil and gas workers into sectors that match their skills and experience.

9) Provides that the recommendations of the Task Force may be considered in collective bargaining but are not binding.

10) Provides that the above provisions shall be inoperative on July 1, 2029, and shall be repealed as of January 1, 2030.

11) Makes various findings and declarations related to California's refinery industry and refinery workers.

Background

Refinery Safety. The PSM Unit within Cal/OSHA is responsible for inspecting refineries and chemical plants that handle large quantities of toxic and flammable materials. Generally, refinery safety rules are built around the concept of process safety, which requires refineries to identify and fix hazards before accidents occur and involve workers directly in investigations when they do. The first safety standard enforced by the PSM Unit was adopted in 1990 under the California

Refinery and Health Act and was substantially similar to the federal one. Following a 2012 chemical release and fire at the Chevron U.S.A. Inc. Refinery in Richmond, however Cal/OSHA and the Legislature moved to strengthen safety standards. An interagency working group, consisting of Cal/OSHA, CalEPA, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, among others, identified serious concerns with Chevron's PSM procedures and expressed the need for stronger preventative safeguards. On May 18, 2017, the Standards Board unanimously adopted an updated PSM standard that requires refinery employers to conduct damage mechanism reviews, apply rigorous safeguard protection analyses, integrate human factors and culture assessments into safety planning, involve front-line employees in decision-making, and perform comprehensive process hazard analyses.

Specifically, refinery employers are required to include an analysis of human factors, where relevant, in major changes, incident investigations, process hazard analyses, and management of organizational change (MOOC) assessments. Human factor analysis must evaluate the following: staffing levels; the complexity of tasks; the length of time needed to complete tasks; the level of training, experience and expertise of employees; the human-machine and human-system interface; the physical challenges of the work environment in which the task is performed; employee fatigue and other effects of shiftwork and overtime; communication systems; and the understandability and clarity of operating and maintenance procedures. Before an employer can reduce staffing levels or change shift duration, they must conduct a MOOC assessment. The MOOC assessment is required for changes with a duration exceeding 90 calendar days affecting operations, engineering, maintenance, health and safety, or emergency response. All MOOC assessments must include an analysis of human factors.

In 2024, the Legislature expanded the definition of "refinery" to include an establishment that produces gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, or biofuel through the processing of crude oil or alternative feedstock. The current PSM standard covers approximately 1,500 facilities in the state that handle or process certain hazardous chemicals, including 11 refineries which produce approximately two million barrels of crude oil per day into gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and chemical feedstocks.[1]

Ongoing Changes to the PSM Standard. In 2019, Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) filed two lawsuits regarding the 2017 PSM safety standard

[1] OSHSB, Process Safety Management for Petroleum Refineries. "**Initial Statement of Reasons**" 2025.

(CCR §5789.1).[2] In a complaint filed in Sacramento Superior Court, WSPA alleged that the standard 1) did not meet requirements under the California Administrative Procedure Act; 2) was invalid; 3) was unenforceable because it was inconsistent with governing statues; and 4) was neither reasonably necessary nor sufficiently clear.[3] Additionally, in a complaint filed in the Eastern District of California, WSPA alleged that the standard was preempted by the National Labor Relations Act.[4]

As part of a 2024 settlement to resolve these lawsuits, Cal/OSHA and the Standards board agreed to engage in rulemaking to amend the PSM safety standard to address WSPA's concerns. Specifically, Cal/OSHA agreed to propose and to support amendments to the PSM standard that would:

- Amend and clarify the definitions of highly hazardous material, major change, and employee representative;
- Amend and clarify the requirements pertaining to the Hierarchy of Hazard Control Analysis; and
- Amend and clarify, with respect to employee participation in PSM activities, how employers will allow for effective participation by employees engaged in such activities.

The revised standard must be adopted in accordance with the California Administrative Procedure Act. On November 28, 2025, the Standards Board published its notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the PSM standard. The first public hearing was held on January 15, 2026. The Standards Board is in the process of soliciting and responding to stakeholder feedback. It's unclear when the updated PSM standard will be adopted by the Standards Board and filed with the Secretary of State.

Over the last several years, California has experienced a wave of petroleum refinery closures and conversions. In turn, the in-state refining sector has significantly consolidated, with in-state refining capacity declining since at least 1982.[5] California's remaining refineries are located primarily in populated urban areas, including four in Los Angeles County and three in the Bay Area. Several of these refineries were built over one hundred years ago.[6]

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[2] OSHSB, Process Safety Management for Petroleum Facilities. "**Notice/Informative Digest**" 2025.

[3] Western States Petroleum Association v. California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, and California Environmental Protection Agency (Sacramento Super. Ct., Case No. 34-2019-00260210).

[4] Western States Petroleum Association v. California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, et al. (E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:19-cv-1270)

[5] Hersbach, Thomas J.P. "**The Writing on the Wall: Why California Refineries are Closing**." Stanford Climate & Energy Policy Program. February 11, 2026.

[6] Ibid.

This bill. This bill establishes the Task Force to develop potential methods and strategies for ensuring maximum employee retention at refineries, during, and especially in the time period preceding, a refinery closure or long-term idling of a refinery, and for addressing employment dislocations associated with oil, gas, and related industries. The Task Force would, no later than June 1, 2029, present to the Legislature, and make available online, a report documenting its findings.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 966 (Gonzalez, 2026) would codify specified provisions of Cal/OSHA's PSM safety standard related to employee participation in PSM activities. Specifically, the bill would require an employer, in consultation with employees and employee representatives, to develop, implement, and maintain a written plan providing for employee participation in all PSM elements, as specified. The bill is pending on the Assembly Floor.

AB 2157 (Connolly, 2026) would remove the July 1, 2027, sunset date for the Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Pilot Program, making the program permanent. The bill is pending on the Senate Floor.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

"DIR would potentially incur costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to convene the Task Force."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

United Steelworkers District 12 (Source)
California Labor for Climate Jobs
The Climate Center
United Steelworkers Local 675

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Manufacturers & Technology Association
Coastal Energy Alliance
Colab Ventura County
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce

Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
Industrial Environmental Association
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Moorpark Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Sage
Santa Barbara County Taxpayer Advocacy Center
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Tri County Chamber Alliance
Vica
Western States Petroleum Association
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the United Steelworkers District 12:

"AB 605 also creates a Refinery Safe Staffing Task Force that brings together labor representatives, refinery employers, process safety experts, regulators, and community stakeholders to develop evidence-based standards and best practices. This collaborative approach will help ensure that future requirements are informed by those with direct experience operating refineries safely and by those most affected by refinery incidents…

"AB 605 also creates a Refinery Safe Staffing Task Force that brings together labor representatives, refinery employers, process safety experts, regulators, and community stakeholders to develop evidence-based standards and best practices. This collaborative approach will help ensure that future requirements are informed by those with direct experience operating refineries safely and by those most affected by refinery incidents."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to a coalition of opponents, including the Western States Petroleum Association:

"AB 605 Creates More Uncertainty for California's Remaining Refineries California's refining industry is under unprecedented pressure, with refinery closures and production reductions already limiting in-state fuel production. AB 605 adds new mandates and uncertainty when the Legislature should be focused on preserving refining capacity and reliable, affordable fuel supplies.

"AB 605 Creates a Politically Appointed Task Force

The task force would address severance, job training, placement, worker assistance, refinery transfers, and strategies for transitioning oil and gas employees into other industries issues traditionally addressed through collective bargaining, employer workforce planning, and existing workforce programs. Creating a politically appointed body to direct these workforce decisions adds unnecessary government involvement and uncertainty for employers and workers…

"AB 605 Undermines Existing Workforce and Labor Processes
The bill inserts a new government task force into matters that are already addressed through collective bargaining, employer workforce planning, and established workforce development programs. This duplicative approach risks creating conflicting requirements and further complicating workforce decisions at a time when refinery operators are already facing unprecedented economic and regulatory pressure."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/4/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Emma Bruce / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/24/26 11:02:19

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 635
Author: Ahrens (D), et al.
Amended: 8/3/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 8-2, 6/24/25
AYES: Wahab, Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Padilla
NOES: Seyarto, Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grayson

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-11, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program: Attorney General

SOURCE: Golden State Manufactured-home Owners League, INC.

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to refer alleged violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law (MRL) to specified nonprofit legal service providers (LSPs), requires HCD to make specified conforming changes to the Mobilehome Residency Law Prevention Program (MRLPP), and extends the sunset date of the MRLPP from 2027 to June 30, 2033.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the MRLPP at HCD to intake complaints regarding alleged violations of the MRL and refer complaints to LSPs.

2) Requires HCD to refer allegations of violations of law or regulations within HCD's jurisdiction to the Division of Codes and Standards within HCD. Prohibits HCD from arbitrating, mediating, negotiating, or providing legal advice in connection with mobilehome park rent disputes, leas or rental disputes arising from lease or rental agreements, but authorizes HCD to provide information on those issues to the complaining party, management, or other responsible party.

3) Authorizes HCD to refer any alleged violations of law or regulations that are not within HCD's jurisdiction to the appropriate enforcement agency.

4) Sunsets the MRLPP on January 1, 2027.

This bill:

1) Requires HCD, under the MRLPP, to refer alleged violations of the MRL or related local ordinances, including rent stabilization ordinances, to an LSP, as specified, within five days of receipt.

2) Authorizes HCD to make multiple referrals and to aggregate multiple complaints of violations of law or regulations within HCD's jurisdiction. HCD shall avoid duplication of effort in any complaints that are referred more than once.

3) Provides that if HCD refers the complaint to a LSP pursuant to (1), HCD shall communicate that referral to the complaining party in a letter.

4) Requires HCD, until June 30, 2029, to contract with one more qualified and experienced LSP and refer complaints for selected evaluation and which are not resolved by HCD to those LSPs for possible enforcement action. Specifies which LSPs HCD may contract with.

5) Provides that a LSP shall have the sole authority to determine which referred complaints will be addressed or pursued, based on the resources provided to it by, and contract entered into with, HCD.

6) Requires an LSP to inform HCD of any complaints not handled due to a shortage of resources.

7) Prohibits a LSP from charging fees to any homeowner for services performed in connection with a complaint referred to it by HCD.

8) Requires HCD to develop a grant process to distribute funds to one or more qualified LSPs and refer any complaints to those LSPs for possible enforcement action. The grant process shall be fully operational for all complaints by July 1, 2029, and begin referring complaints by July 1, 2030.

9) Prohibits an LSP that receives a grant from HCD from doing either of the following:

   a) Charge any fees to a homeowner for any services performed in connection with a complaint referred to it by HCD.
   b) Deny services based on income limits or other financial data of the complainant.

10) Extends the sunset date of the MRLPP from January 1, 2027 to June 30, 2033.

11) Requires HCD's annual MRLPP reports to include additional information on the number of complaints referred to an LSP or other appropriate enforcement agency.

Background

Mobilehomes and the MRL generally. More than 1 million people live in California's approximately 4,500 mobilehome parks. Mobilehomes are not truly mobile, in that it is often cost prohibitive to relocate them or the home cannot retain its structural integrity if dismantled and reinstalled elsewhere. A mobilehome owner whose home is located in a mobilehome park does not own the land the unit sits on, and must pay rent and fees for the land and any community spaces.

The MRL extensively regulates the relationship between landlords and homeowners who occupy a mobilehome park. A limited number of provisions also apply to residents who rent, as opposed to own, their mobilehome. The MRL has two parts: Articles 1 through 8 apply to most mobilehome parks and Article 9 applies to resident-owned parks or parks which are established as a subdivision, cooperative, or condominium. The provisions cover many issues, including: 1) the rental and lease contract terms and specific conditions of receipt and delivery of written leases, park rules and regulations, and other mandatory notices; 2) mandatory notice and amendment procedures for mobilehome park rules and regulations; 3) mandatory notice of fees and charges, and increases or changes in them; and 4) specified conditions governing mobilehome park evictions. A dispute that arises pursuant to the application of the MRL generally must be resolved in a civil court of competent jurisdiction.

Comments

HCD and mobilehomes. HCD oversees several areas of mobilehome law, including health and safety standards, registration and titling of mobilehomes and parks, and, through the Mobilehome Ombudsman, assists the public with questions or problems associated with various aspects of mobilehome law. The Mobilehome Ombudsman provides assistance by taking complaints and helping to resolve and coordinate the resolution of those complaints. However, the Ombudsman does not have enforcement authority for the MRL, and cannot arbitrate, mediate, negotiate, or provide legal advice on mobilehome park rent disputes, lease or rental agreements, but may provide general information on these issues.

HCD also inspects parks and mobilehomes for health and safety issues. Under the Mobilehome Park Maintenance (MPM) program, HCD annually inspects a selection of parks each year for compliance with specified health and safety requirements. The program is funded through a $4 fee, of which the property owner may charge half ($2) to the homeowners. In addition to the MPM program, HCD also responds to health and safety complaints under the Mobilehome Parks Act.

Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program. AB 3066 (Stone, Chapter 744, Statutes of 2018), established the MRLPP as a five-year pilot program at HCD to intake complaints regarding alleged violations of the MRL and refer complaints to legal service providers (LSPs). LSPs have the sole authority under the law to determine which referred complaints will be addressed or pursued. LSPs are prohibited by program rules from charging fees to any homeowner, as the program

is funded via a $10-per-lot fee paid by homeowners and deposited into the Mobilehome Dispute Resolution Fund for program administration. The MRLPP was originally scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2024. In 2023, AB 318 (Addis, Chapter 736, Statutes of 2023) extended the sunset date of the MRLPP to January 1, 2027, and made additional changes to the program rules, some of which had been recommended in HCD's evaluation of the pilot program. These changes included removing the requirement for HCD to select only the most severe, deleterious, and materially and economically impactful alleged violations for referral to LSPs, and removing the requirement for parties to spend the first 25 days attempting to negotiate a resolution to the alleged violation in good faith.

The MRLPP now has an annual reporting requirement and HCD recently published program information on March 14, 2025, covering the cumulative time period from July 2020-December 2024. The report notes total revenue collected of $17 million and total expenditures, including estimated expenses for fiscal year 2024-25, of $9.4 million, leaving a balance in the Fund of approximately $8.4 million at the conclusion of the fiscal year. In addition, the report described the cumulative number of allegations received, processed, and referred to an LSP or another enforcement agency, the type of complaint allegations received broken down by section of the MRL, and a geographic distribution of complaints by county. To date, HCD reports having received a total of 7,002 complaints, of which 6,300 were processed and 1,580 were referred to another enforcement agency or to an LSP for further action.

MRLPP Audit. The California State Auditor performed an audit of the MRLPP, and its findings were released on December 19, 2023, in Audit 2023-112. An excerpt of the Auditor's letter to the Legislature announcing the audit findings is below:

"Although LSPs are responsible for providing services to complainants, attorney-related privileges limit HCD's ability to effectively oversee the work done by these contractors. The privileges prevent the LSPs from providing information—such as the number of hours they work on a complaint or investigations they perform to assist complainants—that HCD needs to determine if the LSPs are serving referred complainants. We also found that HCD did not take immediate action when LSPs notified it that they were denying services to complainants based on incorrect eligibility criteria and that HCD's program data are not of good enough quality to allow HCD to report accurately or efficiently to the Legislature as required.

> "The program is funded by an annual $10 per lot fee paid by mobilehome park owners. Although we determined that HCD generally spent program funding appropriately, it has spent less than 40% of the program's revenue it has collected and has consequently accumulated $8.3 million in unspent funds. Even if HCD's annual costs grow, the amount of unspent funds will likely continue to grow if the Legislature does not reduce the fee. To assess the appropriateness of the program's fee, we modeled different scenarios and determined that suspending the fee from fiscal year 2024–25 through the program's sunset date in January 2027 would reduce the unspent fund balance and still allow HCD sufficient funding to address complaints."

HCD agreed to implement a number of the Auditor's recommendations but expressed significant concern with the recommendation to the Legislature to implement a fee collection freeze. A handful of bills were proposed in 2024 that would have implemented some of the Auditor's recommendations relating to improving HCD's oversight of LSP contractors, though none reached the Governor's desk.

More oversight and dispute resolution. This bill requires HCD to refer alleged MRL violations, including local related local ordinances, to an LSP within five days of receipt. In other words, HCD would continue to review complaints over health and safety code violations, but now would be required to refer alleged violations of the MRL to LSPs. This bill also requires HCD to update the MRLPP requirements specific to contracting and reporting requirements for LSPs that are eligible to receive grants from the program. These changes attempt to address multiple challenges with the current complaints process and the implementation and utilization of funds available through the MRLPP. First, this bill would ensure that specific allegations are referred to LSPs, and done so within five days. Second, it would ensure HCD has greater oversight over the LSPs that are receiving specific complaints to ensure they have adequate resources to review and investigate MRL violation allegations. Finally, these changes attempt to utilize existing funds in the MRLPP, as well as ensure legal assistance continues to be available to those who need it the most.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) indicates that it would only incur "minor and absorbable" costs to implement this bill. However, staff notes that, according to budget documents and the MRLPP's

fund condition statements, HCD's State Operations costs associated with the current program are projected to be $4.05 million in 2026-27 (for both staffing and contract costs), so it appears safe to assume that a similar amount will be incurred to continue to operation of the program, at least through the 2029-30 fiscal year, when the MRLPP will be restructured as a grant program. HCD was unable to provide an estimate of any projected changes to staffing and resource needs from July 1, 2030 through the bill's sunset date of January 1, 2033, so it is unclear whether costs to continue the program as a grant program will result in higher or lower costs than the current level of State Operations expenditures. Funding required for contracts through 2029-30 and grants through January 1, 2033 would depend upon the number of complaints received and referred to LSPs, which may be higher since the bill expands complaints to alleged violations of local ordinances and HCD's expectations that a broader portion of the state will be served. (Mobilehome Dispute Resolution Fund)

- Ongoing annual fee revenue gains of approximately $3.52 million annually until January 1, 2033 from the continued collection of an annual registration fee of $10 for each mobilehome lot located within a park that is subject to the MRL. (Mobilehome Dispute Resolution Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Golden State Manufactured-home Owners League, INC. (Source)
City of Citrus Heights

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Mobilehome Parkowners Alliance
Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Recognizing the significant increase in housing costs and the ongoing instability that many people face, I am committed to ensuring that residents of mobile home parks feel secure and at ease in their living situations. Through the Mobilehome Residency Law Act, we aim to establish comprehensive protections that shield residents from unfair practices, such as arbitrary rent hikes, unjust evictions, and exploitation by park owners. By creating a more equitable framework, we strive to foster a supportive and stable community for all mobile home park residents."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Park owners oppose extending the sunset of the MRLLP, stating that the program "has not been a successful experiment and is

simply costing residents and parkowners money." They argue that although the program is underutilized, it continues to collect a $10 lot fee from residents. Park owners are also concerned that this bill requires HCD to refer to the AG what it in good faith selects as the most severe and impactful allegation, as they feel this requirement could enable complaints that are not legitimate to be referred.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-11, 6/3/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Hoover, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Calderon, Castillo, Chen, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Lackey, Macedo, Blanca Rubio, Ta, Valencia

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/14/26 11:05:53

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 664
Author: Alvarez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-1, 1/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Southwestern Community College District

SOURCE: Southwestern Community College District

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor to allow Southwestern Community College District to offer four workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree programs, outside of the existing CCC baccalaureate degree approval process. It further requires an interim and final report from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), and sunsets the provisions of the bill on January 1, 2037.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 make the provisions of the bill inoperative if AB 2694 (Alvarez, 2026), SB 960 (Cabaldon, 2026), or both bills are enacted and take effect by January 1, 2027.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Differentiates the missions and functions of public and independent institutions of higher education. Under these provisions:

   a) The primary mission of the California State University (CSU) is to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, including teacher education. The CSU is authorized to establish two-year programs only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees and the CCC Board of Governors. The CSU is also authorized to jointly award the doctoral degree with the University of California (UC) and with one or more independent institutions of higher education.

   b) The UC provides undergraduate and graduate instruction and has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over graduate instruction in the professions of law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. The UC is also the primary state-supported academic agency for research.

   c) The independent institutions of higher education provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with its respective mission.

   d) The mission and function of the CCCs are to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level, and the CCCs are authorized to grant the associate degrees. The CCCs are also required to offer learning supports to close learning gaps, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level. (Education Code (EC) § 66010.4)

2) Authorizes the CCC Board of Governors, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish baccalaureate degree programs that do not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program offered by the CSU or UC. Allows for the approval of 30 CCC baccalaureate degree programs per academic year. Current law further requires the CCC Chancellor to consult with and seek feedback from the CSU Chancellor, the UC President, and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities on proposed baccalaureate degree programs, as specified, and establishes a mechanism for the assessment, consultation, and approval of programs where duplication is identified, as specified. (EC § 78040 et seq.)

3) Requires the CSU Trustees to ensure that any changes in the admission criteria for campus admission comply with specified consultation, public meeting,

notification, and disclosure requirements, and prohibits any change from becoming effective until one year has elapsed, or six months, if the change is based upon the resources of the local service area of the affected campus. Applies these requirements to all changes in the admission criteria that affect eligibility of local service area applicants, including changes to transfer requirements and determinations regarding impaction of majors. (EC § 89030.5)

This bill:

1) Authorizes the CCC Chancellor to authorize the Southwestern Community College District to offer no more than four workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree programs, one in each of the following fields:

   a) Forensic Studies.

   b) Allied Health Education and Leadership.

   c) Interaction Design.

   d) Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

2) Requires that the CCC Chancellor ensure that the application and review procedures and requirements related to the application period and timelines are met for any authorized program.

3) Requires the Southwestern Community College District to submit proposals for baccalaureate degree programs to be authorized pursuant to the bill's provisions to the CCC Chancellor and requires that the proposals include all of the following:

   a) Data supporting the regional labor market demand for the proposed degree program.

   b) Data demonstrating the lack of availability of the proposed degree program at the regional public universities or the inability of a degree program offered at a regional public university to meet the demand for the skilled degree workforce in the region.

   c) Evidence of collaboration that prioritizes structured partnerships

between the Southwestern Community College District and regional public universities to avoid unnecessary duplication and to expand access to baccalaureate degrees. The structure of partnerships may include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

i) Guaranteed transfer agreements.

ii) 2 + 2 articulation agreements.

iii) Dual enrollment pathways with high school and public university partners such as 1+1+2 models.

iv) Credit for prior learning.

v) Shared use of facilities to support co-location or cross-location delivery models.

d) Evidence of program approval through the appropriate accreditation body, if necessary.

4) Specifies that full-time equivalent students enrolled in a baccalaureate program authorized by this bill's provisions will be included in the existing funding model developed and adopted consistent with the fee provisions for community college baccalaureate degree programs, as specified.

5) Requires the LAO to conduct and present to the Legislature and to the Governor an interim evaluation by July 1, 2031, and a final evaluation by July 1, 2035, of any baccalaureate degree programs offered under this bill that includes information about completion rates and program impact on underserved and underprepared students, among other things.

6) Requires the Southwestern Community College District to provide the information necessary to conduct the evaluations, as determined by the LAO, to the CCC Chancellor and requires the Chancellor to provide that information to the LAO upon request.

7) Sunsets this bill's provisions on January 1, 2037.

8) Makes the provisions of the bill inoperative if AB 2694 (Alvarez, 2026), SB 960 (Cabaldon, 2026), or both bills are enacted and take effect by January 1, 2027.

9) States that a special statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable because of the unique position of the Southwestern Community College service area, being in an underserved college desert area.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "South County San Diego is one of the largest regions in California without a public university offering bachelor's degrees, leaving many residents, particularly working adults, place bound students, and transit dependent families, without realistic access to the credentials required by today's regional economy. While Southwestern College has long standing partnerships with UC San Diego, San Diego State University, CSU San Marcos, and the City of Chula Vista, existing public university capacity and proximity are not sufficient to meet local bachelor's level workforce demand.

"AB 664 is a targeted, place based pilot grounded in years of faculty led, regionally driven research and intersegmental collaboration. The workforce aligned bachelor's degree programs contemplated by the bill were identified through sustained academic planning, labor market analysis, and program mapping conducted by faculty in coordination with regional UC and CSU partners. These efforts were undertaken to ensure that any proposed programs respond to documented workforce needs while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

"The bill authorizes Southwestern College to offer a limited number of bachelor's degree programs in fields not adequately served by regional universities, requires collaboration with UC, CSU, and local partners, and includes evaluation and sunset provisions to ensure accountability. AB 664 is not intended to predetermine future university governance or siting decisions. Instead, it serves as a near term, collaborative step within the broader intersegmental strategy already endorsed by the Legislature and Governor to expand higher education access in South County.

"By allowing the region to address immediate access and workforce gaps while generating data on demand, program viability, and intersegmental coordination, AB 664 supports informed, evidence based planning for the future of higher education in South County San Diego."

Mission differentiation. The state has four segments of higher education: three public and one private. Each plays a vital and unique role for the state and its students. Their mission statements are outlined in state statute. The CCCs are to have an open admission policy and bear the most extensive responsibility for lower-division undergraduate instruction. Its primary area of mission includes academic and vocational instruction leading to associate degrees and university transfer, career technical education, and remedial education. The primary mission of the CSU is undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree. The UC was granted the sole authority to offer doctoral degree programs and is the state's primary research institution. Despite the differentiation of mission, the Legislature has authorized the CSU and CCCs to go beyond their original mission to offer doctoral degrees and baccalaureate degree programs, respectively, so long as programs do not duplicate those offered by the other segments with primary jurisdiction. Further expansion of CCC baccalaureate degree authority, as proposed in this bill, would signal the Legislature's willingness to allow CCCs to potentially deviate further from their core mission, duplicate programs offered by a segment with primary jurisdiction, and bypass the existing CCC baccalaureate approval process.

Existing CCC Baccalaureate degree program. SB 850 (Block, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014) authorized the Board of Governors, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish a CCC baccalaureate degree pilot program. The pilot program included 15 participating CCC Districts to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs, as long as it did not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC. The original pilot led to the statewide authorization established by AB 927 (Medina, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021), which allows the CCC Board of Governors to approve qualifying programs twice a year on an ongoing basis. Today, as reported on the CCC Chancellor's website, there are more than 50 approved CCC baccalaureate programs statewide, primarily in applied and workforce-related fields such as health care, industrial technology, and public safety. Specific degree offerings include respiratory care, mortuary science, industrial automation, and public safety management. These programs are intended to address unmet regional workforce needs rather than broad expansion into traditional academic fields of study. Since 2017, approximately 1,893 students have attained a CCC bachelor's degree, with 293 completed in the 2023-2024 academic year. Rather than expanding access through that existing statewide process, this bill establishes a separate statutory pathway applicable only to Southwestern Community College District.

District specific authorizations could result in a patchwork of district specific statutes. As mentioned, existing law establishes a uniform process for approving community college baccalaureate degree programs that applies equally to all community college districts. This bill instead creates a district-specific exception authorizing Southwestern Community College District to seek approval from the CCC Chancellor for four specified programs under separate statutory authority. The District would be required to demonstrate regional workforce demand, show that existing public universities cannot adequately meet that demand, and provide evidence of collaboration with regional public universities before programs could be authorized. This bill also requires interim and final evaluation by the LAO before the authority sunsets in 2037. While this bill attempts to address the higher education needs of South San Diego County, creating regional exceptions based on the circumstances of a single community college district could encourage similar requests from other regions and result in a patchwork of district-specific statutes rather than a consistent statewide policy. Targeting underserved regions, workforce shortages, or limited access to nearby public university programs may warrant additional flexibility for community college baccalaureate degrees. However, those policy questions may be better addressed through statewide changes that establish objective criteria applicable to all community college districts, rather than through legislation tailored to a single community college district.

TESOL degree. Under this measure, Southwestern Community College District may seek approval to offer baccalaureate degree programs in Forensic Studies, Allied Health Education and Leadership, Interaction Design, and TESOL. According to the Southwestern Community College District, the proposed bachelor's degree in TESOL is intended to prepare graduates for careers in adult education, workforce English training, instructional coordination, and other settings that do not require a California teaching credential. The Southwestern Community College District further states that the program is not intended to serve as a K-12 teacher preparation program or satisfy California's credentialing requirements. Rather, graduates interested in becoming K-12 teachers would pursue a post-baccalaureate credential program offered through the applicable four-year university. While this explanation provides helpful context, this bill does not specify the intended scope or purpose of the proposed TESOL degree. Because "Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages" could reasonably be interpreted by prospective students as preparation to teach in California public schools, the absence of clarifying language may create uncertainty regarding the careers for which the degree is designed.

Alternative solutions include intersegmental collaboration. This bill requires the Southwestern Community College District to demonstrate that it has explored partnership opportunities with the CSU and the UC before seeking approval to offer a baccalaureate degree program. This requirement recognizes the state's goals for intersegmental collaboration where feasible. If it is the desire of the Legislature to expand access to baccalaureate degree programs, arguably, more effective and efficient alternatives do not require a departure from the CCC's mission but instead could focus on expanding and streamlining bachelor's degree pathways between CCCs and public or nonprofit universities. There are numerous examples of successful CCC/CSU pathway partnerships across the state, including Sonoma State University's (SSU) liberal studies bachelor's degree completion program, which provides upper-division instruction to transfer students taught by SSU faculty on the Mendocino Community College campus. This model brings the university to CCC students, building on the strengths of each segment. Further, in its recommendation for alternatives to the original CCC baccalaureate degree pilot program, the LAO's evaluation of the original pilot notes that improving alignment between CCC and the universities could increase the number of CCC students who ultimately obtain a bachelor's degree and reduce the amount of time students take to obtain a bachelor's degree. The LAO report asserts that CCCs and university pathways could not only be more cost-effective but also benefit more students (including place-bound students), thereby having a more widespread impact. Additional state efforts to strengthen intersegmental partnerships could provide another pathway for expanding bachelor's degree access without having to expand independent CCC programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- The Chancellor's Office indicates that the estimated one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of $80,000 to $138,000 for the Southwestern Community College District to implement up to four new workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree programs could be absorbed within existing resources, while the ongoing costs of providing these programs would be offset by state apportionments and student fee revenues. These costs would include the design of academic standards and student learning outcomes, updates to existing curriculum, and implementation of new courses.

- The Chancellor's office estimates one-time General Fund workload costs of up to $33,000 to develop the application for the college, issue guidance, and provide technical assistance.

- This bill could result in one-time General Fund costs, potentially in the high tens of thousands to low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) to complete the report and submit it to the Legislature each year. It may also impact the ability of the LAO to fulfill other existing or future legislative mandates and requests, as the LAO's budget is subject to the Legislature's constitutional spending cap.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Southwestern Community College District (source)
Associated Student Organization - Southwestern College
California School Employees Association
Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce
City of Chula Vista
HomeFed Corporation
Los Angeles Regional Consortium
National University
San Bernardino Community College District
San Diego's Building and Construction Trades
South County Economic Development Council
Southwestern College Academic Senate
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Faculty Association
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
University of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Southwestern Community College District argues, in part, "AB 664 addresses only the bachelor's-level workforce gaps that remain even with University Center partnerships in place; programs where no local public university offers a pathway to placebound students in South San Diego County, even with co-located university partners on campus. No more than four programs may be authorized, collaboration with university partners is required first, and every authorization runs through the Chancellor's established review process. AB 664 does something a broader access bill cannot: it generates documented, independently assessed evidence of what regional intersegmental

collaboration looks like when it works. We built this pilot to be evaluated; not just the programs, but the entire collaboration model. We want the LAO's findings to give the Legislature an honest picture of what this model produced and what it would take to build on it."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The CSU argues, in part, that "The CSU supports the author's intent to expand access to higher education in South San Diego County and the City of Chula Vista. In the past year, San Diego State University and California State University San Marcos have worked to address the region's workforce needs as identified by Southwestern College through the development of various "2+2" programs. This has included work toward establishing in-person baccalaureate degree programs in nursing, psychology, business administration, computer information systems and cyber security at Southwestern College's campus in Chula Vista. However, AB 664 would undermine the collaboration at the heart of these partnerships. We encourage Southwestern Community College District to pursue their baccalaureate degree proposals through the AB 927 process that is prescribed in state law. As noted earlier, there have been 52 baccalaureate degree programs created at community colleges throughout the state. If there are problems with the AB 927 process, we welcome conversations on how to improve, rather than circumvent, the process. The CSU is willing to engage in conversations that improve the AB 927 process to provide better outcomes for the students we serve."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-1, 1/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Castillo, Ellis, Flora, Johnson, Macedo, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 13:00:39

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) 327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 690
Author: Schultz (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/24/25
AYES: Arreguín, Gonzalez, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-9, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Criminal procedure: indigent defense compensation

SOURCE: California Attorneys for Criminal Justice; California Public Defenders Association; Silicon Valley De-Bug; Smart Justice

DIGEST: This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, establishes requirements for contracts or other memorandum of understanding for indigent services between a county or court and a law firm, and prohibits a county or court from entering into a flat fee or per case compensation contract for indigent defense services for any case in which a special circumstances murder is charged, or any other cases with charges carrying a potential sentence of death or life without the possibility of parole.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that a defendant in a criminal case has the right to, among other things, the assistance of counsel for their defense and to be personally present with

counsel. (California Constitution (Cal. Const.), art. I, § 15; U.S. Const., Amend. VI.)

2) Provides that any case in which a person desires but is unable to employ counsel, and in which counsel is assigned in the superior court to represent the person in a criminal trial, proceeding, or appeal, the following assigned counsel shall receive a reasonable sum for compensation and for necessary expenses, in an amount determined by the court, to be paid out of the general fund of the county:
   a) In a county or city and county in which there is no public defender;
   b) In a county of the first, second, or third class where there is no contract for criminal defense services between the county and one or more responsible attorneys;
   c) In a case in which the court finds that, because of a conflict of interest or other reasons, the public defender has properly refused; and,
   d) In a county of the first, second, or third class where attorneys contracted by the county are unable to represent the person accused. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 987.2, subd. (a).)

3) Allows the sum of compensation to be paid to assigned counsel to be determined by a contract between the court and one or more responsible attorneys after consultation with the board of supervisors as to the total amount of compensation and expenses to be paid. Provides that the amount of compensation awarded be within the amount of funds allocated by the board of supervisors for the cost of assigned counsel in those cases. (Pen. Code, § 987.2, subd. (b).)

4) Provides that whenever a court-appointed attorney is entitled to reasonable compensation and necessary expenses, the judge of the court shall consider the following factors, no one of which alone shall be controlling:
   a) Customary fee in the community for similar services rendered by privately retained counsel to a non-indigent client;
   b) The time and labor required to be spent by the attorney;
   c) The difficulty of the defense;
   d) The novelty or uncertainty of the law upon which the decision depended;
   e) The degree of professional ability, skill, and experience called for and exercised in the performance of the services; and,
   f) The professional character, qualification, and standing of the attorney. (Pen. Code, § 987.3.)

5) Encourages counties that utilize an assigned private counsel system to do all of the following:
   a) Establish panels that shall be open to members of the State Bar of California;
   b) Categorize attorneys for panel placement on the basis of experience;
   c) Refer cases to panel members on a rotational basis within the level of experience of each panel, except as specified; and,
   d) Seek to educate those panel members through an approved training program. (Pen. Code, § 987.2, subds. (c).)

6) Provides that in specified counties, the court shall first utilize the services of the public defender to provide criminal defense services for indigent defendants. In the event that the public defender is unavailable and the county and the courts have contracted with one or more responsible attorneys or with a panel of attorneys to provide criminal defense services for indigent defendants, the court shall utilize the services of the county-contracted attorneys prior to assigning any other private counsel. (Pen. Code, § 987.2, subd. (d).)

7) Provides that in the specified counties, if the public defender is unavailable and the county has created a second public defender and contracted with one or more responsible attorneys or with a panel of attorneys to provide criminal defense services for indigent defendants, and if the quality of representation provided by the second public defender is comparable to the quality of representation provided by the public defender, the court shall next utilize the services of the second public defender and then the services of the county-contracted attorneys prior to assigning any other private counsel. (Pen. Code, § 987.2, subd. (e).)

8) Requires counsel be appointed in a misdemeanor case, if a person desires but is unable to employ counsel, and it appears that the appointment is necessary to provide an adequate and effective defense for the defendant. (Pen. Code, § 987.2, subd. (i).)

9) Provides that in capital cases or cases with indigent defendants, counsel may request the court for funds for the specific payment of investigators, experts, and others for the preparation or presentation of the defense. (Pen. Code, § 987.9, subd. (a).)

10) States that in assigning defense counsel in felony cases, whether it is the public defender or private counsel, the court shall only assign counsel who represents, on the record, that they will be ready to proceed with the preliminary hearing or

trial within the time periods prescribed for these hearings, except in unusual cases, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 987.05.)

This bill:

1) Requires, as of January 1, 2027, a contract or memorandum of understanding between a county or court and a law firm, individual attorney, or other legal entity for the provision or administration of indigent defense services to comply with the following:
   a) The county or court must consider the following when preparing a contract or memorandum of understanding for indigent defense services:
      i) California Standards for Contract and Panel Defense Systems.
      ii) The full workload and professional responsibilities of the attorney or firm, including time for work in other cases in addition to work performed pursuant to the indigent services contract.
      iii) The National Public Defense Workload Study by the RAND Corporation published in 2023, or a later workload study identified by the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) and agreed upon by the California Public Defenders Association and California Attorneys for Criminal Justice.
   b) Requires attorneys to comply with ethical rules of representation and make reasonable efforts to meet with their clients outside of court appearances.
   c) Requires, if the contract is with a private entity or law firm to manage indigent defense services, there must be a provision requiring the contractor to maintain a website with contact information, as specified. Requires attorneys to have a phone number that accepts jail and prison calls and a functional voicemail.
   d) Requires the contract amount and structure to ensure that attorneys have the resources and time necessary to consult with clients, assess discovery, conduct fact investigations, file motions, and perform any other relevant tasks to ensure competent legal representation.
   e) Requires all contracts to identify the amount of funds allocated for attorney's fees and separately specify the amount of any allocation for any case-related defense services, including, but not limited to, investigators, social workers, and immigration counsel. Requires these ancillary service funds to be separate and in addition to funds allocated for attorney compensation, and states there is not a penalty for contracted attorneys accessing those funds.

2) Prohibits a county or court from entering into flat fee or per case compensation contracts for the administration or provision of indigent defense services for any

case in which a special circumstances murder is charged, or any other cases with charges carrying a potential sentence of death or life without the possibility of parole. Specifies that "flat fee" means a compensation structure that provides a fixed dollar amount for each case, or for an unlimited number of cases, without regard to the actual time and resources required to provide competent and zealous representation in each case.

3) Requires the contract to include a provision that affords the contractor a process to seek a modification of the contract amount if the number of cases handled or the costs of providing competent legal representation exceed the amount reasonably contemplated at the beginning of the contract period.

4) Requires that counties that contract with a private entity or law firm to provide indigent defense services for that county shall provide these contracts for indigent defense services to the OSPD every two years, beginning on January 1, 2028.

5) Makes these provisions applicable to any memorandum of understanding, contract, contract amendment, or contract extension for the provision or administration of indigent defense services entered into or elected by any county or court in California on or after January 1, 2028.

Background

The U.S. and California constitutions provide every criminal defendant a right to legal representation, regardless of their ability to pay for an attorney. (Cal. Const. art. I, § 15; U.S. Const., Amend. VI.) In California, there is no statewide governance of how indigent defense services are provided. Instead, each county has established its own system for providing attorneys to indigent defendants. (https://www.ppic.org/blog/californias-leading-role-in-providing-criminal-defense-to-the-poor/.) According to a 2023 report by the OSPD, 33 counties use a county public defender's office as the primary way to provide indigent defense services, meaning the attorneys representing most indigent defendants are county employees. Twenty-one counties use a contract model, meaning the county has a contract with a law firm or with individual attorneys who are paid by the county to represent criminal defendants. Most counties contract for some level of services, including for "conflict counsel" – attorneys who can represent a defendant when a conflict of interest prevents another attorney from providing representation. There are currently no statewide standards for contracts for indigent defense services.

This bill establishes uniform requirements for contracts for indigent defense services. This bill requires each county to submit its contracts to OSPD but does not provide OSPD with direct oversight over the contracts. Perhaps most significantly, the bill prohibits a county or court from entering into a flat fee contract for indigent defense services for any case in which a special circumstances murder is charged, or any other cases with charges carrying a potential sentence of death or life without the possibility of parole.

By banning flat fee contracts and revising the process and requirements when contracting for or otherwise entering into agreements for indigent defense services, this bill is directed at providing better compensation for these services, and, as a result, better representation for indigent defendants.

FISAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Costs (local funds, General Fund) of an unknown but potentially significant amount to counties affected by the contracting requirements in this bill. Counties with contracts that already comply will likely not incur any costs. However, counties with non-complying contracts may incur potentially significant workload costs to ensure new contracts meet the bill's requirements. General Fund costs will depend on whether each of the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates.

Unknown, potentially minor and absorbable costs to Judicial Council (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to ensure contracts comply with this bill's requirements. The Judicial Council notes that the courts are responsible for providing indigent defense counsel at the appellate level. While the courts may be involved in the decision at the trial court level of who is provided an indigent defense counsel contract, it is ultimately the counties who enter into the contract and pay for this service. The Judicial Council does not anticipate this bill to impact the appellate contracts as they already meet the requirements of the bill. At the trial court level, some rural courts have noted concerns about the ability to contract with qualified attorneys under these new provisions and flagged general concerns about the references to the RAND study and the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) standards being overly broad. While the trial courts' budgets will not be directly impacted by these changes, there may be some operational and workload aspects as courts work with their county partners to approve and enter into these contracts.

Minor and absorbable costs (General Fund) to the OSPD. OSPD does not anticipate this bill to have a meaningful fiscal impact on its operations. OSPD reports that collecting contracts on a biannual basis can be absorbed by current staff. If an evaluation of the contracts to determine whether flat fees were utilized, that could also be conducted on a biannual basis with current staffing levels. The only anticipated costs would be minor increases to data storage and online publication costs that are unlikely to be realized prior to 2029.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/25)

California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (co-source)
California Public Defenders Association (co-source)
Smart Justice (co-source)
Silicon Valley De-Bug (co-source)
ACLU California Action
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice
California Innocence Coalition
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Courage California
Death Penalty Focus
Drug Policy Alliance
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Empowering Women Impacted by Incarceration
Fair Chance Project
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Full Picture Justice
Initiate Justice
Initiate Justice Action
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Local 148 LA County Public Defenders Union
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Peace and Justice Law Center
Players Coalition
Reuniting Families Contra Costa
Rubicon Programs
San Francisco Public Defender
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Starting Over
Starting Over Strong

The W. Haywood Burns Institute
Uncommon Law
Vera Institute of Justice
Wren Collective

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/25)

California State Association of Counties
County of Butte
Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Kings County Board of Supervisors
Rural County Representatives of California
Urban Counties of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-9, 6/2/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Macedo, Patterson, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Sanchez

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / Public Safety / (916)651-4118
8/17/26 10:54:40

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 713
Author: Solache (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-2, 6/16/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby, Weber Pierson

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-2, 6/24/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 54-14, 1/29/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: student employment

SOURCE: CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
California Immigrant Policy Center
Immigrant Justice in Action Coalition
Immigrants Rising
uAspire
UAW
UC Student Association

DIGEST: This bill prohibits California public universities, beginning January 6, 2027, from disqualifying a student for employment due to their failure to provide proof of federal employment authorization.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Makes it unlawful for a person or other entity to:
   a) hire, recruit, or refer for a fee for employment in the United States an individual without authorization to work in the United States when the person or other entity knows the individual is not authorized to work in the United States; and
   b) hire for employment in the United States an individual without complying with specified employment authorization verification processes, or, if the person or other entity is an agricultural association or employer or farm labor contractor, to hire, recruit, or refer for a fee an individual for employment without complying with specified employment authorization verification processes. (8 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1324a(a).)

2) Establishes the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) and specifies that certain immigrants shall not be eligible for any state or local public benefit, except as provided.
   a) Defines "state or local public benefit" to mean the following:
      i. any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency of a state or local government, or by appropriated funds of a state or local government; and
      ii. any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of a state or local government or by appropriated funds of a state or local government.
   b) Provides specified state or local public benefits that are exempt from the prohibition in (1). (8 U.S.C. § 1621.)
   c) Specifies that a state may provide that undocumented immigrants who are not lawfully present in the United States are eligible for a state or local public benefit for which the individual would otherwise be ineligible under this Act only through the enactment of a state law after August 22, 1996, that affirmatively provides for that eligibility. (8 U.S.C. § 1621(d).)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the University of California (UC) as a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC; and grants the Regents full powers of

organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property and the purchase of materials, goods, and services. (Art. IX, Sec. (9)(a), California Constitution.)

2) Confers upon the California State University (CSU) Trustees the powers, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system and provides that the Trustees are responsible for the rule of government of their appointees and employees. (Education (Edu.) Code §§ 66606, 89500, et seq.)

3) Establishes the California Community Colleges (CCCs) under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state, and specifies that the CCC is comprised of community college districts. (Edu. Code § 70900.)

4) Makes it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against an employee or applicant because of their immigration status, unless the employer can show by clear and convincing evidence that it is required to do so in order to comply with federal immigration law. (2 California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) § 11028(f)(3).)

This bill:

1) Prohibits the UC, the CSU, and the CCC from disqualifying a student from being hired for an employment position due to their failure to provide proof of federal work authorization, except where:
   a) proof is required by federal law;
   b) proof is required as a condition of a grant that funds the particular employment position for which the student applied.

2) Specifies that, for the purposes of its provisions, the UC, CSU, and CCC must treat the prohibition on hiring undocumented noncitizens in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 as inapplicable because that provision does not apply to any branch of state government.

3) Specifies that, to the extent that any employment is considered a "benefit" for the purposes of federal law, the bill constitutes authorization by the state to

provide that benefit to undocumented individuals pursuant to the exception in the PRWORA, as described above.

4) Requires that the UC, CSU, and CCC must implement its provisions by January 6, 2027.

5) Specifies that this bill applies to the UC, unless it is found to be inapplicable to the UC, in which case the bill shall apply only to the extent that the UC Regents make it applicable by an appropriate resolution.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The University of California estimates unknown but potentially significant litigation costs, to the extent this bill results in litigation and a legal judgment implicating federal work authorization requirements. There would also be one-time General Fund implementation costs in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars to develop systemwide regulations, update internal HR policies, and retrain hiring personnel.

- The Chancellor's Office estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of between $936,000 and $1.6 million for the 72 community college districts to update policies and procedures regarding the hiring of undocumented workers and ensure compliance with other state and federal laws (such as income taxes). The Chancellor's Office also estimates one-time General Fund costs of $25,000 to $65,000 to develop Title 5 regulations and issue guidance.

- The California State University (CSU) estimates General Fund costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to update CSU policies and provide guidance to campuses. Additionally, the CSU anticipates the bill is likely to be challenged in court which could result in significant but unknown legal costs.

- The Department of Justice does not anticipate significant costs resulting from this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO (co-source)

California Immigrant Policy Center (co-source)
Immigrant Justice in Action Coalition (co-source)
Immigrants Rising (co-source)
uAspire (co-source)
UAW (co-source)
UC Student Association (co-source)
ACLU California Action
Alliance for a Better Community
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Building Skills Partnership
Cal State Student Association
California Pan - Ethnic Health Network
California School Employees Association
California State University Employees Union
Campaign for College Opportunity
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
College for All Coalition
Economic Mobility for All Coalition
Edtrust-west
Education and Leadership Foundation
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Future Leaders of America
Grace Institute - End Child Poverty in CA
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Institutional Solutions
Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley
Los Angeles Urban Foundation
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium
Nextgen California
Northern California College Promise Coalition
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California
Public Advocates
Puente Learning Center
Santa Cruz Community Ventures
Southern California College Access Network
Southern California College Attainment Network
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
UAW Local 4123
UAW Local 4811

UAW Region 6
UC Student Association
UnidosUS
University of California Student Association
Young Invincibles

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the California Immigrant Policy Center, which is a co-source of this bill:

> Currently, many students are not eligible for student employment opportunities solely due to their immigration status. This prevents these students from filling vacancies on campuses, and enriching both themselves and our public higher education institutions. We believe that this legislation is consistent with the state's commitment to advance access, affordability, equity, and success for all students. However, despite that commitment, undocumented students continue to be blocked from essential opportunities. Currently, thousands of students in California are unjustly barred from obtaining paying jobs on campus—including experiential jobs and jobs needed to complete their degrees.
>
> Legal scholars have identified that the federal prohibition on hiring undocumented people (the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA)) does not apply to state governments when they act as employers, like California's higher education systems. This means that the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges can authorize the hiring of all their undocumented students.
>
> Moreover, in August 2025, a California Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that the University of California's policy denying educational employment opportunities to undocumented students is discriminatory. In October 2025, the California Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's ruling. This ruling clearly opens the door for California to pass AB 713 and remedy this discriminatory practice.
>
> Amidst ongoing federal attacks on our immigrant communities, including students, California must remain steadfast in its commitment to advance dignity and justice for all Californians. By passing AB 713, California will once again

serve as a model for the rest of the nation in our ability to truly provide support to our undocumented students. We strongly urge your support on AB 713.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 54-14, 1/29/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Arambula, Davies, Flora, Gipson, Hoover, Lackey, Patel, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia, Wallis

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/17/26 10:37:56

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 767
Author: Alanis (R)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 1/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Sexually violent predators: schools

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a sexually violent predator (SVP) from residing within one-quarter mile of a day care center and provides that home schools are included within the definition of a private school for purposes of SVP residency restrictions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides for the civil commitment for psychiatric and psychological treatment of a prison inmate found to be an SVP after the person has served their prison commitment. This is known as the Sexually Violent Predator Act ("SVPA"). (Welfare & Institutions (Welf. & Inst.) Code, § 6600, et seq.)

2) Defines a "sexually violent predator" as "a person who has been convicted of a sexually violent offense against at least one victim, and who has a diagnosed mental disorder that makes the person a danger to the health and safety of

others in that it is likely that he or she will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6600, subd. (a)(1).)

3) Permits a person committed as an SVP to be held for an indeterminate term upon commitment. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 6604 & 6604.1.)

4) Establishes a process whereby a person committed as an SVP can petition for conditional release or an unconditional discharge with or without the recommendation or concurrence of the Department of State Hospitals (DSH). Provides that a hearing upon the petition cannot be held until the person who is committed has been under commitment for one year from the date of the order for commitment. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subds. (a) & (f).)

5) Requires the court to hold a hearing to determine whether the person would be a danger to the health and safety of others in that it is likely that the person will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior due to the person's diagnosed mental disorder if under supervision and treatment in the community. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (g).)

6) Provides that before placing a person on conditional release, the community program director designated by DSH must submit a written recommendation to the court stating which forensic conditional release program is most appropriate for supervising and treating the person. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (h).)

7) Requires, after a judicial determination that a person should be conditionally released, the person to be placed in the county of domicile of the person prior to the person's incarceration, unless both of the following conditions are satisfied: the court finds that extraordinary circumstances require placement outside the county of domicile and the designated county of placement was given prior notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed placement of the committed person in the county. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (a).)

8) Defines "county of domicile" as "the county where the person has their true, fixed, and permanent home and principal residence and to which the person has manifested the intention of returning whenever the person is absent." Specifies the information the court must consider when determining the county of domicile. Provides that if no information can be identified or verified, the county of domicile of the individual is considered to be the county in which the person was arrested for the crime for which the person was last incarcerated in

the state prison or from which the person was last returned from parole. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (b).)

9) Defines "extraordinary circumstances" to mean "circumstances that would inordinately limit the department's ability to effect conditional release of the person in the county of domicile." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (c).)

10) Requires specified government officials from the county of domicile to provide assistance and consultation in the process of locating and securing housing within the county for persons committed as SVPs who are about to be conditionally released. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (d).)

11) Requires DSH or its designee to consider the following in recommending a specific placement for community outpatient treatment: the concerns and proximity of the victim or the victim's next of kin and the age and profile of the victim or victims in the sexually violent offenses committed by the person subject to placement. Provides that the "profile" of a victim includes, but is not limited to, gender, physical appearance, economic background, profession, and other social or personal characteristics. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (e).)

12) Prohibits a conditionally-released person from being placed within a quarter-mile of any public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten through twelfth grade if the court finds that the person has "a history of improper sexual conduct with children" or has previously been convicted of specified sex offenses. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (f).)

13) Requires the court, if the committed person is ordered to be conditionally released in a county other than the county of commitment due to extraordinary circumstances, to order that jurisdiction of the person and all records related to the case be transferred to the court of the county of placement. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (g).)

This bill:

1) Prohibits an SVP from residing within one-quarter mile of a day care center if the person has been convicted of child molestation or continuous sexual abuse of a child. Prohibits the subsequent establishment of a day care center from rendering an existing placement of an SVP noncompliant. Specifies that an existing placement includes, but is not limited to, any placement location where

a person is placed, or where a person was placed before the revocation of their conditional release and that person is later returned to that placement location. Defines at the time of placement to mean when the location was recommended or proposed, as specified, or was identified and is being considered, whichever comes first.

2) Defines "private school" as a facility or home that has filed a private school affidavit with the State Department of Education (CDE), that provides private school instruction to any student between 6 to 18 years of age, inclusive, and is publicly listed on the directory maintained by CDE.

3) Provides that a home school is only considered a private school, as defined, if it was operating as a home school at the time of the SVP's placement. Prohibits the subsequent establishment of a private school, including a private school that is a home, from rendering an existing placement of an SVP noncompliant. Specifies that an existing placement includes, but is not limited to, any placement location where a person is placed, or where a person was placed before the revocation of their conditional release and that person is later returned to that placement location. Defines at the time of placement to mean when the location was recommended or proposed, as specified, or was identified and is being considered, whichever comes first.

Background

The Sexually Violent Predator Act (SVPA) established an extended civil commitment scheme for sex offenders who are about to be released from prison but are referred to DSH for treatment in a state hospital because they have suffered from a mental illness which causes them to be a danger to the safety of others. The initial screening is conducted by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Board of Parole Hearings. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6601, subd. (b).) If a determination is made that the person is likely a sexually violent predator, CDCR is required to refer to the person to DSH for a full evaluation. (*Ibid*.)

Under existing law, a person may be deemed an SVP if: the person has been convicted of specified sex offenses against one or more victims; the person has been diagnosed with a mental disorder that makes the person a danger to the health and safety of others in that it is likely that the person will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior; and, two licensed psychiatrists or psychologists concur in the diagnosis. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 6600, subd. (a), 6601, subd. (d).) If DSH

finds that the person meets the criteria to be considered an SVP, the case is referred to the county's designated counsel who may file a petition for civil commitment. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6601, subd. (i).)

Once a petition has been filed, a judge holds a probable cause hearing. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6602.) If probable cause is found, the case proceeds to a trial at which the prosecutor must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person meets the statutory criteria to be considered an SVP. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6604.) If the prosecutor meets this burden, the person can be civilly committed to a DSH facility for treatment.

DSH must conduct an examination of an SVP's mental condition at least annually and submit an annual report to the court. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6604.9, subd. (a).) This annual review is prepared by a professionally qualified person. (*Ibid*.) In addition, DSH has an obligation to seek judicial review any time it believes a person committed as an SVP no longer meets the criteria. **(**Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6607.)

Release. Two types of release exist for SVPs—unconditional discharge and conditional release. Both types of release require a petition for release. The petition can be filed with or without the concurrence of the Director of State Hospitals, and the Director's concurrence or lack thereof determines which is process used.

An SVP can, with the concurrence of the Director of State Hospitals, petition for unconditional discharge if the patient "no longer meets the definition of a sexually violent predator," or for conditional release. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6604.9, subd. (d).) When the petition is filed for unconditional discharge (i.e., with the concurrence of the DSH), the court must order a show cause hearing. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6604.9, subd. (f).) If the court at the show cause hearing determines that probable cause exists to believe that the committed person's diagnosed mental disorder has so changed that he or she is not a danger to the health and safety of others and is not likely to engage in sexually violent criminal behavior if discharged, then the court must hold a hearing on the issue. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6605, subd. (a)(2).) At the hearing, the committed person has a right to a jury trial and is entitled to relief unless the prosecuting attorney proves "beyond a reasonable doubt that the committed person's diagnosed mental disorder remains such that he or she is a danger to the health and safety of others and is likely to engage in sexually violent behavior if discharged." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6605, subd. (a)(3).)

A person committed as an SVP may also petition the court for conditional release, with or without the recommendation or concurrence of the Director of State Hospitals. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (a).) A hearing on the petition cannot be held until the SVP has been under commitment for at least one year. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (f).) Upon receipt of a first or subsequent petition from a committed person without the concurrence of the Director, the court is required whenever possible to review the petition and determine if it is based upon frivolous grounds and, if so, to deny the petition without a hearing. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (a).) If the petition is not found to be frivolous, the court is required to hold a hearing. (*People v. Smith* (2013) 216 Cal.App.4th 947.)

Once the court sets the hearing on the petition, the petitioner is entitled to both the assistance of counsel and the appointment of experts. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subds. (c), (g); *People v. McKee*, *supra*, 47 Cal.4th 1172, 1193.) At the hearing, the court must determine whether the petitioner would be a danger to the health and safety of others which is defined to mean "that it is likely that the person will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior due to the person's diagnosed mental disorder if under supervision and treatment in the community." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (h).) At the hearing, the person petitioning for release has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (i); *People v. Rasmuson* (2006) 145 Cal.App.4th 1487, 1503.) If the petition is denied, the SVP may not file a subsequent petition until one year from the date of the denial. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608, subd. (j).)

If a person is approved for conditional release, DSH is required to find a suitable housing placement for the person in the community. Existing law requires that the person be placed in the county of domicile prior to the person's incarceration unless the court finds that extraordinary circumstances require placement outside the county of domicile and the designated county of placement was given prior notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed placement of the committed person in the county. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (a).) For purposes of determining the county of domicile, the court may consider information found on a California's driver's license, California identification card, recent rent or utilities receipt, printed personalized checks or other recent banking documents, or any arrest record. If no information can be verified, the county of domicile is considered to be the county in which the person was arrested and convicted or last returned on parole. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (b)(1).) If that county is not suitable, the court, DSH, and CDCR may choose an alternative county for placement.

DSH must consider a number of factors when locating housing. Specifically, a conditionally-released person is prohibited from being placed within a quarter-mile of any public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten through twelfth grade if the court finds that the person has "a history of improper sexual conduct with children" or has previously been convicted of specified sex offenses. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (f).) DSH must additionally consider the concerns and proximity to the victim or victim's next of kin, and the age and profile of the victim or victims of the sexually violent offenses committed by the person subject to placement. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subds. (e) & (f).)

A court may approve, modify, or reject the recommended or proposed specific address within a community. The city and the address must be approved by the court. (Welf. & Inst. Code, 6609.1, subd. (a)(5)(A).) Welfare and Institutions Code section 6609.1 requires that a community be given 30 days' notice if an SVP is pending conditional release in that community. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6609.1, subd. (a)(4).) Agencies receiving notice of an SVP's placement in a specific county may comment on the placement or location of release and may suggest alternative locations for placement within a community. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6609.1, subd. (a)(5)(A), (b).) Notably, if no housing placement has been found and the court has ordered the person to conditional release, the person can be released as a transient. (*Karsai*, *supra*, at p. 788-89.)

Residency restrictions. Existing law prohibits a conditionally-released person from being placed within a quarter-mile of any public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten through twelfth grade if the court finds that the person has "a history of improper sexual conduct with children" or has previously been convicted of specified sex offenses. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6608.5, subd. (f).) A private school includes a home school. (*People v. Superior Court (Cheek)*, 87 Cal. App. 5th 373, 380-381.) A school need not be planned or in existence prior to an SVP's placement or notice of an SVP's placement is given to the community. (*Id*. at p. 379.)

Under current law, any person who wants to establish a private school, either in their home or elsewhere, must file an affidavit annually with the Superintendent of Public Instruction stating the business name, the business address, the address of the custodian of records, the name of the directors and officers of the business, the school enrollment, number of teachers, and whether it is co-educational and if not, whether it is for boys or girls, that records are properly maintained, and that all required criminal background checks have been completed. (Ed. Code, § 33190.)

This bill adds day care centers to the existing residency restriction. "Day care center" is defined as "a child day care facility other than a family day care home, and includes infant centers, preschools, extended day care facilities, and schoolage child care centers." (Health & Saf. Code, § 1596.76.) This bill defines "private school" as a facility or home that has filed a private school affidavit with the CDE, that provides private school instruction to any student between 6 to 18 years of age, inclusive, and is publicly listed on the directory maintained by CDE. However, this bill provides that a home school is only considered a private school if it was operating as a home school at the time of the SVP's placement.

This bill prohibits the subsequent establishment of a day care center or a private school, including a private school in a home, from rendering an existing placement of an SVP noncompliant. This bill specifies that an existing placement includes, but is not limited to, any placement location where a person is placed, or where a person was placed before the revocation of their conditional release and that person is later returned to that placement location. This bill defines "at the time of placement" to mean when the location was recommended or proposed, as specified, or was identified and is being considered, whichever comes first.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Major annual costs, likely in the $2 million range to the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) for significantly increase workload to operate the DSH Conditional Release Program for Sexually Violent Predators (CONREP-SVP) and for increased placement-related litigation, including the Department of Justice. Further restricting CONREP-SVP potential housing placements will lengthen the placement process with associated costs though more certainty from defining day care centers and private schools may reduce some placement related costs. Significant ongoing workload to search and assess prospective properties in coordination with county stakeholders via housing committee meetings (General Fund).

Unknown, potentially significant annual costs to house CONREP-SVPs in state facilities due to fewer prospective properties.

Unknown, potentially significant annual sunk costs when a potential housing placement becomes unavailable due to a later licensing of a day care center or private school (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

ACLU California Action
California Public Defenders Association
California Sex Offender Management Board
Initiate Justice
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Smart Justice California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 1/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo,

McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bryan, Caloza, Elhawary, Kalra, Lee, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/17/26 10:37:57

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 775
Author: Fong (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/25
AYES: Cervantes, Choi, Allen, Limón, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Behested payments: reporting

SOURCE: California Fair Political Practices Commission

DIGEST: This bill requires officials to report behested payments on a quarterly basis directly to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) using its online system or to a local filing officer, under specified circumstances.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 update the language of this bill to ensure that it will not chapter out SB 760 (Allen, Chapter 551, Statutes of 2025).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines a behested payment as a payment made at the behest of an elected officer or member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), among others, that is neither a campaign contribution nor a gift; that is principally for a legislative, governmental, or charitable purpose; and for which elected officer or PUC member does not provide full and adequate consideration in exchange.

2) Requires an elected officer or member of the PUC to report to their agency behested payments made at the behest of that officer or member within 30 days

following the date on which the payment or payments equal or exceed $5,000 in the aggregate from the same source in the same calendar year.

3) Requires that a behested payment report include:

   a) The name and address of the payer;

   b) The amount of the payment;

   c) The date or dates that the payment or payments were made;

   d) The name and address of the payee;

   e) A brief description of the goods or services provided or purchased, if any; and

   f) A description of the specific purpose or event for which the payment or payments were made.

4) Requires that within 30 days of receiving a behested payment report, the state agency must forward the report to the FPPC and the local agency must forward it to the officer with whom elected officers of that agency file their campaign reports.

This bill:

1) Deletes the timelines to report described in 2) of existing law and instead requires that an elected officer or member of the PUC report a payment made at the behest of that officer or member within 30 days following the end of the calendar quarter in which the aggregate amount of payments from the same source in the same calendar year equal or exceed $5,000.

2) Deletes the requirement that behested payment reports be made to the official's agency and instead specifies that elected officers or PUC members making quarterly behested reports file them with:

   a) The FPPC using its electronic behested payment filing system, which shall provide the filer with immediate confirmation of the date and time the report was received.

   b) A local filing officer, if an elected official of that local agency makes the report and if the local government posts all behested payment reports filed within 10 days of receipt.

3) Expands what is statutorily required in a behested payment report as described in 3) of existing law, when known, to include:

   a) If the payee is a nonprofit, a brief description of whether the officer, member of the PUC, member of their family, officeholder staff, or political staff is a board member, executive officer, salaried employee, founding member, or on an honorary or advisory board of the nonprofit organization.

   b) A brief description of any proceeding before the agency of the elected officer or member of the PUC in which the payer of the behest is the named party or subject of a decision and which occurs at the time or in the previous 12 months of the payment.

4) Allows in statute an elected officer or PUC member to estimate payment amounts and dates on behested payment reports under specified circumstances, including when despite good faith efforts by the filer the payer has not provided the information.

5) Requires that once the $5,000 aggregate threshold from a single source has been reported for a calendar year, then an official must file another report within 30 days of the end of any subsequent quarter in which behested payments from that same source equal or exceed $1,000.

Background

Proposition 9, which appeared on the June 1974 ballot, created the Political Reform Act (PRA) and established California's campaign finance and disclosure laws for state and local campaigns, candidates, officeholders, and ballot measures. Proposition 9 further created the FPPC to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA.

The PRA seeks to end corruption by eliminating secret or anonymous contributions. The PRA subjects the campaign activities, personal financial affairs, and the solicitation of charitable or governmental contributions of state and local officials to public review and scrutiny.

In 1996, the FPPC amended its regulatory definition of the term "contribution" to include any payment made "at the behest" of a candidate, regardless of whether that payment was for a political purpose. As a result, any payments made by a third party, even for a governmental or charitable purpose, had to be reported as campaign contributions.

The change in the FPPC regulations, along with a number of advice letters issued by the FPPC interpreting the new definition of "contribution," limited the ability of elected officers to co-sponsor governmental and charitable events. In one advice letter, the FPPC concluded that a member of the Legislature would be deemed to have accepted a campaign contribution if, at his behest, a third party paid for the airfare and lodging for witnesses to testify at a legislative hearing.

In response to the FPPC's modified definition of "contribution," the Legislature enacted SB 124 (Karnette, Chapter 450, Statutes of 1997) which provided that a payment made at the behest of a candidate principally for a legislative, governmental, or charitable purpose is not considered a contribution nor a gift. SB 124 also required that such payments made at the behest of a candidate, who is also an elected officer, when aggregating to $5,000 or more in a calendar year from a single source, be reported to the elected officer's agency. The elected officer must report such a payment within 30 days. Examples of payments made at the behest of an elected officer that have to be reported under this provision of law include charitable donations made in response to a solicitation sent out by an elected officer or donations of supplies and refreshments made by a third party for a health fair that was sponsored by an elected officer.

Comments

1) *Author's Statement.* Behested payments are those made at the request of a public official regardless of whether the payment was for a political purpose. Transparency of and public access to these types of payments are vital to good governance. To increase compliance with reporting requirements, this bill provides more reasonable timeframes, allows direct electronic reporting, and simplifies rules around subsequent payments from the same source. By updating the process and deadline for filing behested payment reports, this bill will provide more flexibility for state and local officials to ensure compliance, while also increasing transparency on both the state and local level.

2) *Codificaton of FPPC Regulations.* In 2021, the FPPC adopted regulations that imposed additional disclosure requirements for behested payment reports in two circumstances:

   - The official at whose behest the payment was made has a specified relationship with a nonprofit organization that is the recipient of the payment; and

- The entity making the behested payment is involved in a proceeding before the official's agency at the time the behested payment is made or within the past 12 months.

The FPPC at that time also adopted a regulation permitting officials to use a "good faith estimate" on a behested payment report when the official makes reasonable efforts but is unable to obtain the exact payment amounts or dates within the time period for filing the behested payment report. This bill codifies these FPPC regulations.

3) *Support if Amended.* California Common Cause recognizes that the proposed reforms in this bill, including default electronic filing with the FFPC, codification of important relationship disclosures, and a clear quarterly filing schedule, will likely improve filer efficiency and public accessibility. Common Cause supports these changes to help improve compliance and, subsequently, public trust in the integrity of government fundraising and charitable solicitation practices. It, however, cannot support this bill without an amendment to remove or significantly lower the proposed $1,000 incremental reporting threshold that applies after the initial $5,000 threshold is reached.

Common Cause writes that limiting subsequent reporting to only those contributions that exceed $1,000 from sources that have already met the $5,000 threshold weakens transparency and accountability. Behested payments can occur at sensitive times, such as when a matter involving the donor is pending before the behesting official, and the public has a legitimate interest in knowing about any payments, regardless of amount, once a donor has reached the $5,000 threshold.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 867(Cooley, Chapter 749, Statutes of 2017) recast the behested payments law.

SB 124 (Karnette, Chapter 450, Statutes of 1997) differentiated behested payments from contributions and established the process by which they are reported.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

FPPC would incur first-year costs of $177,000, and $170,000 annually thereafter, to expand the electronic behested payment filing system to cover local officials (General Fund). Specifically, FPPC anticipates (1) increased annual software costs

of $5,000, and (2) personnel costs of $172,000 in the first year and $165,000 ongoing for one additional information technology position.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Fair Political Practices Commission (source)
City and County of San Francisco
League of Women Voters of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the sponsor, by altering the deadline for filing behested payment reports, this bill will make behested payment reports significantly easier to find, thus improving transparency. The change to quarterly behested payment removes uncertain deadlines and creates a set schedule for behested payment reports, similar to the semi-annual and pre-election campaign finance reporting schedules. This change will enable watchdogs, the public, the media, and enforcement to proactively review

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/3/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

Prepared by: Carrie Cornwell / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/24/26 13:46:42

****** END ******

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE AB 788
Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) 327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 788
Author: Quirk-Silva (D)
Amended: 8/20/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 7/8/25
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Gonzalez, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-1, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Prisons: facilities for female offenders

SOURCE: Board of Equalization Vice Chair, Sally Lieber

DIGEST: This bill 1) establishes the Division of Female Programs and Services within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); 2) makes changes to the Female Offender Reform Master Plan and associated training; and 3) creates an ombudsperson position solely assigned to adult female institutions.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 require that the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission created by this bill consist of 19 members who serve two-year terms and specifies the commission's membership; require the commission to develop formal recommendations and submit them to the Director for Female Programs and Services; and change the deadlines for the required reports to 2027.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Division of Adult Institutions, the Division of Adult Parole Operations, and the Division of Rehabilitative Programs, all with Directors appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, under the Undersecretary for Operations within CDCR. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 12838.1, subds. (c)(1)-(2).)

2) Requires the Governor to appoint four subordinate officers, subject to Senate confirmation, to the Division of Adult Institutions, who oversee an identified category of adult institutions, one of which shall be female offender facilities. (Gov. Code, § 12838.1, subd. (d).)

3) Requires CDCR to create a Female Offender Reform Master Plan. Requires CDCR to create policies and operational practices designed to ensure a safe and productive institutional environment for female offenders. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 3430, subds. (a) & (b).)

4) Requires CDCR to contract with nationally recognized gender responsive experts in prison operational practices staffing, classification, substance abuse, trauma treatment services, mental health services, transitional services, and community corrections to do both of the following:

    a) Conduct a staffing analysis of all current job classifications assigned to each prison that houses only females.
    b) Develop programs and training for department staff in correctional facilities. (Pen. Code, § 3430, subd. (c).)

5) Requires CDCR to create a gender responsive female classification system and a gender responsive staffing pattern for female institutions and community-based offender beds. (Pen. Code, § 3430, subds. (d) & (e).)

6) Requires CDCR to create a needs-based case and risk management tool designed specifically for female offenders, build and strengthen systems of family support and family involvement during the period of the female's incarceration, establish a family service coordinator at each prison that houses only females, and design and implement evidence-based, gender-specific rehabilitative programs, including wraparound educational, health care, mental

health, vocational, substance abuse and trauma treatment programs that are designed to reduce female offender recidivism. (Pen. Code, § 3430, subds. (f)-(i).)

7) Requires CDCR to expand the existing prison ombudsman program to ensure comprehensive deployment of ombudsmen throughout the state prison system with a specific focus on maximum-security institutions. (Pen. Code, § 5066.)

This bill:

1) Establishes the Division of Female Programs and Services within CDCR.

2) Provides, upon an appropriation, that the Director for Female Programs and Services is responsible solely for female adult institutions and community facilities housing female offenders. Requires the director to report to the undersecretary and to have a minimum of five years of experience serving a female correctional population in a custody setting. Requires this position to have policy- and fiscal-level responsibility and decision making authority and to utilize existing departmental functions for services to avoid duplication of functions and responsibilities.

3) Reorganizes gubernatorial appointees within CDCR so that three appointees oversee male adult institutions and one oversees female adult institutions. Specifies that these appointees are subject to Senate confirmation.

4) Requires that CDCR prepare and submit a report on the implementation of the Female Offender Reform Master Plan to the Legislature beginning March 1, 2027, and every three years thereafter.

5) Requires CDCR maintain the plan, including all subsequent updates and reports, in consultation with the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission and with nationally recognized experts in gender responsive prison operational practices, staffing, classification, substance abuse, trauma treatment services, mental health services, transitional services, community corrections, legal advocacy, and incarceration reform.

6) Requires CDCR to post the plan, any reports, and any updates to the plan to the department's website.

7) Requires CDCR to create programs that are designed to ensure a safe and productive institutional environment for female offenders.

8) Requires CDCR to prepare and submit to the Legislature an updated staffing analysis of all current job classifications assigned to each prison that houses women no later than March 1, 2027, and every three years thereafter.

9) Requires CDCR to include in its existing gender-responsive programs and training for staff in correctional facilities training at the academy. Requires 40 hours of initial training with a curriculum specifically focused on working with the population within female institutions and an 8-hour annual training thereafter for those working in a female prison.

10) Requires CDCR to perform a comprehensive review of office's policies and practices and other aspects of women-centered corrections developed to enhance safety and rehabilitative efforts. Provides that the review should engage collaboratively with internal experts, community-based organizations, medical and mental health experts, labor, incarceration reform advocates, and national consultants on best practices to improve all aspects of operational practice and treatment, with an emphasis on sexual safety and gender-responsive, trauma-informed principles.

11) Requires that the Division of Female Programs and Services do both of the following:

    a) Manage and provide oversight of adult female programs, including prisons, conservation camps, and parole and community programs.
    b) Develop gender-responsive, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive approaches to program and policy development that will improve recidivism outcomes for the adult incarcerated and paroled female offenders under the supervision of the department.

12) Requires that the Division of Female Programs and Services is headed by a person who has relevant professional experience in planning and implementing recidivism reduction programs and services that are gender responsive and trauma informed.

13) Requires CDCR to establish the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission to develop active partnerships, involving the community, treatment experts, and related agencies in its efforts toward gender-responsive practice.

14) Requires the commission to be composed of representatives of community-based organizations, expert researchers, policy experts, legislators, union representatives, formerly incarcerated women, legal advocates, and incarceration reform advocates.

15) Requires the commission to meet quarterly and publish minutes for each meeting on the department's internet website.

16) Requires the Undersecretary for Operations to appoint an ombudsperson solely assigned to adult female institutions.

17) Contains other technical and conforming changes.

Background

AB 76 (Lieber, Chapter 706, Statutes of 2007) codified CDCR's then-existing Female Offender Gender Reform Strategy. Penal Code section 3430 requires CDCR to create a Female Offender Reform Master Plan; create policies and operational practices that are designed to ensure a safe and productive environment for incarcerated women; conduct a staffing analysis of all current job classifications assigned to the women's prisons; develop programs and training for department staff in correctional facilities; create a gender-responsive female classification system; create a gender-responsive staffing pattern for women's prisons and community-based offender beds; create a needs-based case and risk management tool designed specifically for women; design and implement evidence-based gender-specific rehabilitative programs; build and strengthen systems of family support and family involvement; and establish a family service coordinator at each women's prison.

CDCR's reform and AB 76 were enacted and implemented during the height of the state's prison overcrowding crisis when the state housed over 173,000 individuals in its prisons, including over 11,000 women, violent incidents were common, and CDCR had not yet made substantial progress toward remedying the deficiencies of its mental health care system.

Since that time, women housed in CDCR facilities have continued to face unique challenges. For example, incarcerated women are more vulnerable to sexual assault than their male counterparts in a carceral setting, and are also more likely to have experienced childhood abuse as well as sexual violence prior to incarceration.

(Wolff et al., *Patterns of Victimization Among Male and Female Inmates: Evidence of an Enduring Legacy*, Violence and Victims (Aug. 2009) available at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3793850/ .) Women are also more likely to be the parent of a minor child. (Leah Wang, *Both sides of the bars: How mass incarceration punishes families* (Aug. 2022) available at <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/08/11/parental_incarceration/ .) And, a 2017 State Auditor report additionally found that women made up a disproportionate percentage of suicides that occurred in the state's prisons. (California State Auditor, *California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: It Must Increase Its Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Inmate Suicides*, Report 2016-131 (Aug. 2017), p. 1 available at <https://information.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2016-131.pdf .)

The proponents of this bill seek to build on existing law designed to increase safety and improve conditions of confinement for women incarcerated in the state's prisons. To do so, this bill makes a number changes. First, this bill revises the mandates on CDCR related to the Female Offender Reform Master Plan. Specifically, this bill requires the training that is mandated under current law to include training at the correctional officer academy and 40 hours of initial training with a curriculum specifically focused on working with the population housed in female institutions along with subsequent annual training for those working in a women's prison. This bill requires CDCR to perform a comprehensive review of policies and practices as they pertain to women-centered corrections developed to enhance safety and rehabilitative efforts. This bill also requires CDCR to submit regular reports on the implementation of the Female Offender Reform Master Plan.

This bill additionally creates an ombudsperson who is solely assigned to adult female institutions. Finally, this bill establishes the Division of Female Programs and Services which is responsible solely for female adult institutions and community facilities housing female offenders, includes minimum qualifications for the Director of the Division, and requires CDCR to establish the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission composed of a variety of stakeholders to work on gender-responsive practices.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

CDCR anticipates this bill would result in ongoing General Fund costs in the range of $5-8 million, as well as one-time costs of $5-7 million. AB 788 would require

CDCR to create a new Director for Female Programs and Services, as well as a separate associate director for women's institutions. The bill articulates that this director shall utilize existing department functions to avoid duplication. While the department would seek to reduce as much duplication as possible, for example by using existing business services, the creation of a new director with policy- and fiscal-decision making responsibility would require significant staff to support that responsibility.

In addition, the bill requires the new Division of Female Programs and Services to have management and oversight of the women on state parole. Currently, Division of Parole Operations (DAPO) parole agents typically manage mixed-gender caseloads, with approximately 94 percent of supervised persons identified as male and 6 percent identified as female. If mixed gender caseloads are divided moving forward, such changes would likely reduce operational efficiency, increase costs for supervision of women on parole, and result in cost pressures in the millions of dollars for DAPO. The bill also expands academy training for staff working in women's facilities. The language currently is not precise about whether staff currently assigned to the women's institutions would be required to receive the 40 hours of training. Assuming current staff are required to receive the training, CDCR would anticipate one-time costs of approximately $5-7 million. Ongoing, the department anticipates training costs of hundreds of thousands of dollars to $1 million.

Finally, CDCR also anticipates significant costs, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, associated with establishing and administering the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission, which is required to meet quarterly; updating and maintaining the Female Offender Reform Master Plan by March 1, 2026, and triennially thereafter; and performing a comprehensive review of policies, practices, and other aspects of women-centered corrections mandates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Board of Equalization Vice Chair, Sally Lieber (source)
A New Way of Life Reentry Project
California Legislative Women's Caucus
California Public Defenders Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-1, 6/3/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Tangipa

Prepared by: Stephani Jordan/ Public Safety / (916) 651-4118
8/24/26 13:47:12

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 904
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/16/25
AYES: Arreguín, Becker, Limón, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 5/19/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Carpet recycling

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes numerous substantive changes to the carpet extended producer responsibility program, including adding reporting requirements to grants allocated to apprenticeship programs, requiring $1million be allocated, and requiring that the carpet assessment be external.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/2026 push back the deadline by which CalRecycle must finalize the regulations for this program January 1, 2028 to January 1, 2029; allows CalRecycle to deem a PRO ineligible to operate the program if they submit a plan that CalRecycle disapproves three times; and specifies that 'knowing and intentional' violations of the act include a violation

that has not been corrected between reporting periods, among other technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Carpet Producer Responsibility Program (PRP) (Public Resources Code (PRC) §42968 et seq.) and the Product Stewardship for Carpets Program (PRC §42970 et seq.) to promote the collection and recycling of carpet. The program's provisions:

    a) Establish the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) as the producer responsibility organization (PRO) used in California (PRC §42971).
    b) Require carpet manufacturers and distributors to publish on their internet websites an environmental product declaration identifying the components and the percentage of each component used in the carpet (PRC §42968.4).
    c) Require the PRO to create a funding mechanism that equitably distributes the PRO's costs among participating producers, based proportionally on their California sales volumes (PRC §42968.23).
    d) Require that by January 1, 2029, anyone who removes carpet from a home or business as part of a carpet installation project to have that old carpet taken to an approved collection site (PRC §42968.40).
    e) Require the PRO to submit an annual report to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and make it available on the PRO's internet website by July 1 of each year (PRC §42968.62).
    f) Require a PRO organization formed under (a) above to include nonvoting board members with representatives.
    g) Allow CalRecycle to impose a civil penalty of up to $25,000 per day for any violation that is intentional, knowing, or negligent or a civil penalty of up to $10,000 for other violations (PRC §42978).
    h) Beginning July 1, 2025, requires that the program allocate 8 percent of assessments on covered products per year, as determined by CalRecycle, to grants for apprenticeship programs.

This bill:

1) Pushes back the timeline requiring CalRecycle to finalize regulations from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2029.

2) Expands the definition of an approved carpet collection site to include a carpet recycling center, a municipal facility that accepts carpet, a retailer that sells carpet, and a producer's regional distribution center.

3) Eliminates the requirement for carpet manufacturers and distributors to publish on their internet websites an environmental product declaration identifying all of the components and the percentage of each component used in the carpet. Instead, this bill requires them to only publish the components that constitute more than 1% of the carpet by weight and any intentionally added component listed by the Department of Toxic Substances Control as a Candidate Chemical pursuant to Section 69502.2 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

4) Replaces the current PRO funding mechanism based proportionally on the California sales volumes of participating producers with one that leaves it up to the PRO to decide how to fund the organization.

5) Eliminates the requirement for the PRO to submit amendments to its PRP to conform the plan to California law by July 1, 2026, and eliminates a requirement that the PRP include an explanation of how the PRO will be funded based on an assessment tied to each participating producer's California sales volume.

6) Replaces the requirement that a PRP explain how carpet makers will provide a visual mark on the back of carpet that is a synthetic material to allow carpet to be sorted quickly with a requirement to provide the name of the carpet maker, the date of manufacture, and a listing of the carpet's face fibers and backing materials.

7) Replaces the requirement that 8% of assessments go to grants for apprenticeship programs and instead specifies that $1 million annually shall go to grants for apprenticeship programs, with funding allocated between apprenticeship programs in northern and southern California.

8) Specifies reporting requirements for the apprenticeship grants, including among other provisions
   a) The amount of each grant and incentive payment, with grant amounts broken down by category and by recipient.
   b) The number of applicants and recipients of a grant broken down by category.
   c) A detailed description of the criteria used to evaluate applications and to award the grants.

9) Replaces the governing board composed of non-voting members in existing law with a governing board of voting members, and specifies the makeup of the governing board.

10) Establishes certain exemption for the requirement that, on and after January 1, 2029, any person who removed a covered product from a residence of business transport the products to an approved collection site.

11) Changes the due date for the PRO's annual report from July 1 of each year to September 1 of each year.

12) Revises the types of violations that are subject to a civil penalty of up to $25,000 per day to only include those that are intentional or knowing, rather than intentional, knowing, or negligent, and specifies what can count as intentional or knowing for the PRO.

13) Authorizes CalRecycle to determine the PRO ineligible to act as the PRO if the CalRecycle disapproves the PRO's annual report 3 or more times.

Background

How The Carpet Stewardship Program Is Organized. Generally speaking, California's carpet stewardship program operates in the following manner:

a) State law requires California – through CalRecycle – to contract with Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), a third-party nonprofit PRO in Georgia.
b) CARE has a board of directors, which is made up primarily of representatives from carpet mills.
c) CARE's board of directors created a stewardship planning committee consisting of some members of the CARE board of directors and non-board of director members. This committee – which also includes some non-voting members – makes all the decisions about what to do with and how to spend the money collected from California consumers. The committee shares its decisions with the board of directors, but it appears from CARE's annual reports that only some of that information is made public.

Where Does The Money Go? According to CARE's 2023 annual report, it spent $30.4 million collected from California carpet buyers in the following fashion:

a) $23.2 million in subsidies:

i. $10 million to seven Tier 1 Processors that essentially take apart collected carpets so the materials can be used to make other products;
ii. $9.8 million to ten Tier 2 Manufacturers that take the recycled output generated by Tier 1 Processors and turn it into other projects; and
iii. $3.4 million to 10 carpet collectors and sorters that provide the materials to Tier 1 Processors.

b) $4 million in expenses, which includes collecting carpet ($2.1 million), education & outreach ($1.1 million) and grants ($601,000); and
c) $3.1 million in administrative costs, which includes $2.4 million to CARE and $688,000 in fees paid to CalRecycle.

CARE's new assessments fees – which were increased by 37%-54% on February 1, 2025 – are:

a) Broadloom carpet: $1.05/square yard (sy) (up from $0.70/sy) for carpet with less than 10% recycled content, and $0.96/sy (up from $0.62/sy) for carpet with 10% or more recycled content.
b) Carpet tile: $1.49/sy (up from $0.99) for carpet with less than 10% recycled content, and $1.40/sy (up from $0.91) for carpet with 10% or more recycled content.

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "While AB 863 (Aguiar-Curry, 2024) strengthened accountability requirements for the statewide consumer-funded carpet recycling program, CARE continues to lack a representative model of governance, and perfectly recyclable carpet is currently being landfilled due to a lack of convenient collection sites and proper sorting. This bill improves accountability and representation within CARE's governance structure by adding additional nonvoting members across different manufacturers to the governing board. To improve recyclability, this bill increases collection site density, heightens product composition and backstamping standards, and ensures effective implementation in AB 863 to encourage more sustainable production practices."

Starting Over…again. In 2024, the state's original carpet stewardship program was overhauled by AB 863 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 675, Statutes of 2024), but for reasons explained below, the changes will likely not take effect until January 1, 2027, at the earliest. Among other provisions, AB 863:

a) Set explicit goals that must be accomplished in the PRP;
b) Required 8% of all assessments collected be spent on union apprenticeship programs;
c) Increased penalties for program violations from up to $5,000 per day to up to $10,000 per day for most violations, and from up to $10,000 per day to up to $25,000 per day for knowing, intentional, and negligent violations; and

Overhauling the 2010 carpet stewardship law was intended to create a fresh start for a program that has somewhat of a checkered history. However, it's important to note the changes mandated by AB 863 – even though the bill became law on January 1, 2025 – will not take effect until CalRecycle:

a) Adopts new regulations, which AB 863 required CalRecycle to complete by December 31, 2026;
b) Approves a new PRP submitted by the PRO;
c) Notifies the PRO 90 days before notifying the Legislature that it is prepared to implement the new requirements of AB 863; and
d) Submits to the relevant committees of the Legislature a letter indicating the conditions in a), b), and c) above have been met, that CalRecycle is prepared to implement the new law, and that the PRO is prepared to implement the new PRP.

In 2025, AB 80 (Aguiar Curry) was introduced to make further significant changes to the carpet program. AB 80 was held on the Senate Appropriations Suspense file. AB 904 picks up where AB 80 left off, including most of the changes proposed in AB 80. However, AB 904 differs from AB 80 in some ways:

a) *Allocations for grants to apprenticeship programs.* Instead of dedicating 8% of assessments for grants to apprenticeship program, AB 904 allocates $1 million annually for these grants. It also establishes reporting requirements, where the grant awardees must report on how the money is being spent and how it is advancing the goals of the carpet stewardship program.
b) *Governing board member allocation.* Changes the composition of the voting board, and specifically reduces the apprenticeship representation from two members (one northern and one southern) to just one apprenticeship representative, with the position changing every two years between a northern and southern representative.
c) *External vs. internal fees.* Reverts to existing law's external fee, when an internal fee had been contemplated under AB 80.

d) *Prescribing collection site criteria.* Establishes collection requirements, to be met through the stewardship program, for carpets. This includes requirements that at least a quarter of collection facilities be open on Saturdays in areas with populations of 25,000 people or more.
e) *Other*. Makes technical changes to the definition of non-profit (a PRO must be a nonprofit) and 'carpet', strikes provision that CalRecycle's adjustment of performance standards be subject to the APA, and clarifies that violations and fines apply to knowing and intentional, not negligent, violations of the program, among others.

Some of these changes add transparency (reporting on allocation of funding to apprenticeship programs; keeping the fee external), and others address nuts-and-bolts issues with the program that were not contemplated in AB 80 (adding concrete requirements to collection site requirements, changing the exact composition of the governing board). Altogether, AB 904 makes changes to a program that was heftily amended in 2024: those 2024 changes have not yet been implemented, making it unclear how this will change existing law in practice.

Pushing paper. In 2021, prior to AB 863 and updates to the carpet stewardship program, the carpet stewardship program PRO reported that they budgeted $100,000 per year for incentives and grants to support state-approved apprenticeship programs for training apprentice and journey-level carpet installers in proper carpet recycling practices. AB 904, like AB 80 and existing law through AB 863, provides significantly more funding for apprenticeship programs ($1 million per year, which is a change from the 8% allocated in existing law).

Unlike existing law and attempts to update the carpet stewardship program, AB 904 requires that apprenticeship programs provide detailed reports on how they are spending that grant funding; however, AB 904 does not authorize these reports to be used to inform subsequent grants, meaning that if the gains to the program were miniscule or a grantee spent funds inefficiently, that information would be known, but not considered when allocating them another grant.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) estimates ongoing costs of $439,000 in 2027-28 and $575,0000 annually thereafter (special fund) to develop and promulgate regulations, provide ongoing legal technical expertise, conduct investigations, inspections, and verify compliance with requirements regarding product composition, and conduct audits of the producer's return process.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/23/26)

Alameda County Waste Management Authority
California Product Stewardship Council
Carpet & Rug Institute
Child Action, INC.
District Council 16, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 36, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
Los Angeles Unified School District
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/23/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 5/19/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Lackey, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Kalra, Macedo, Papan, Patterson, Ta

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 11:59:30

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 917
Author: Ávila Farías (D)
Amended: 7/6/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 3-2, 7/2/25
AYES: Pérez, Cortese, Laird
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Gonzalez

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 4-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 49-18, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: County offices of education: school districts: average daily attendance of less than 250 pupils: permanent status

SOURCE: California Teachers Association

DIGEST: This bill changes when some certificated employees earn permanent status by eliminating distinctions based on a district's size and allowing service in any regional occupational center or program (ROCP), not just those operated by a single school district, to count toward permanent status.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires most certificated employees in school districts with an average daily attendance (ADA) of 250 or more to be classified as permanent after two years of satisfactory service and reelection for a third year. (Education Code (EC) § 44929.21)

2) Permits, but does not require, school districts with fewer than 250 ADA to grant permanent status after three years of service and reelection for a fourth year. (EC § 44929.23)

3) Applies a two-year probationary period for permanent status to county office of education (COE) teachers only if the COE has ADA of 250 or more. (EC § 1296)

4) Prohibits service as an instructor in classes conducted at a ROCP from counting toward permanent status in a school district, but provides an exception allowing such service to count if the ROCP is operated by a single school district. (EC § 44910)

5) Includes a number of employment and dismissal provisions that apply differently to certificated employees whose probationary period began before the 1983–84 fiscal year or to those employed in small school districts or COEs. (EC § 44948)

This bill:

1) Requires certificated employees in school districts and COEs with fewer than 250 ADA to be granted permanent status after two years of employment and reelection for a third year, consistent with the probationary period applicable to larger local educational agencies (LEAs).

2) Repeals Education Code Section 44910, which currently prohibits service as an instructor in an ROCP from counting toward permanent status in a school district, except when the ROCP is operated by a single school district.

3) Adds a new version of Section 44910 that affirms service in any ROCP counts toward permanent status in the employing school district or COE, without distinguishing the ROCP's operator.

4) Repeals or amends various Education Code sections that apply only to employees whose probationary period began before the 1983–84 fiscal year, including provisions that establish alternative dismissal procedures or longer probationary timelines in small school districts.

5) Makes conforming changes to provisions governing dismissal, suspension, reassignment, and employment contracts to align with the bill's permanent status requirements and apply due process protections uniformly across all LEAs.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "California is a diverse state with a diverse student body. Having a teaching staff that reflects the diversity of its students is essential for creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

   "When students see teachers who share their cultural, racial, or linguistic backgrounds, it fosters a sense of belonging and shows them that their identities are valued. Diverse teachers bring varied perspectives and experiences, enriching classroom discussions and helping address biases or gaps in traditional curricula. Representation also encourages greater understanding and connection, as teachers can draw on their own experiences to build meaningful relationships with students. A diverse teaching body not only promotes inclusivity, but also prepares all students to thrive in a multicultural society by modeling empathy, understanding, and respect for differences.

   "AB 917 will ensure that deserving educators and school employees in all school districts and county offices of education have an opportunity to achieve permanent employment status— providing career stability, workforce retention, and increasing the diversity of California's education workforce."

2) *What does permanent status mean?* Permanent status provides certificated employees with due process protections against dismissal or non-reelection. A permanent employee may only be dismissed for statutorily defined causes and is entitled to a hearing before a Commission on Professional Competence if dismissal is challenged. Permanent status also affects how employees are treated during reductions in force, including rights related to seniority, bumping, and notice. These protections are intended to promote stability in the workforce, discourage arbitrary employment decisions, and support the retention of qualified staff. At the same time, they can limit an employer's flexibility to reassign or reduce staff based on shifting programmatic needs.

3) *Why have certain employees historically been excluded from permanent status?* California law has long varied permanent status eligibility based on school size, probationary start date, and program type. For example, until recently, adult education teachers were excluded from attaining permanent status. AB 897 (McCarty, Chapter 548, Statutes of 2023) removed this exclusion for adult education teachers employed by school districts, provided they serve at least 75% of full-time equivalent hours. Legislative discussion around AB 897 noted that adult education programs have historically been categorically funded and often operated outside traditional TK–12 staffing and accountability structures, contributing to their exclusion from permanent status provisions.

   Similarly, instructors in ROCPs have long been excluded from the permanent status pathway unless the ROCP was operated by a single school district. AB 2245 (Juan Carrillo, Chapter 956, Statutes of 2024) amended this framework by requiring, commencing July 1, 2025, that service as an instructor in classes conducted at an ROCP operated by a single school district be included in computing the service required to attain permanent employee status at that school district, ensuring that employment relationships are recognized when the operator and employer are the same.

   The ongoing expansion, first via AB 897 for adult education and then AB 2245 for single-district ROCP instructors, suggests a broader legislative interest in eliminating carve-outs that were historically justified by funding instability, part-time staffing patterns, or the specialized governance of certain programs. This bill continues this trend by eliminating distinctions based on district size and removing operator-based limitations on which ROCP instructors may accrue service credit toward permanent status.

4) *Arguments for expanding permanent status eligibility.* Proponents of expanding eligibility argue that permanent status offers basic job protections that should apply to all certificated employees, regardless of the size of their employing agency or the structure of the program in which they teach. They note that temporary or probationary employment can discourage retention, particularly in hard-to-staff positions. Supporters also contend that distinctions based on ADA thresholds or employment start dates are outdated and arbitrary, and that funding instability should be addressed through budget and program reforms rather than limiting employee rights. In the context of ROCPs, they argue that as funding has shifted into the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), instructors should be treated like other high school educators.

5) *Arguments for maintaining some exclusions.* Opponents of expanding permanent status argue that in small districts and specialized programs like ROCPs, staffing needs are more variable and sensitive to funding changes, making rigid employment protections harder to manage. In the case of ROCPs, industry alignment is critical, and course offerings may need to change rapidly in response to labor market trends. Critics argue that permanent status can reduce a program's ability to phase out outdated courses and replace instructors whose skillsets are no longer aligned with evolving needs. Additionally, some joint powers authority (JPA) operated ROCPs do not receive direct state funding, relying instead on competitive grants like the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) and the K–12 Strong Workforce Program, which can vary significantly year to year.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

To the extent that additional permanent employees seek due process related to dismissal, this bill could result in unknown, but potentially significant Proposition 98 General Fund costs to school districts and county offices of education (COEs). A precise amount would depend on the number of dismissal proceedings which could increase because an estimated 1,000 employees in small school districts would now be eligible for permanent status as a result of this measure. This bill also extends due process rights to ROC/P instructors. The costs associated with due process hearings or other dismissal proceedings can range from $10,000 to over $100,000 per case, depending on the scope.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Teachers Association (source)
California Federation of Teachers
California School Employees Association
California State Council of Service Employees International Union

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

Association of California School Administrators
Baldy View Regional Occupational Program
California Association of School Business Officials
California Association of Suburban School Districts
California County Superintendents
California School Boards Association

Career Technical Education Joint Powers Authority Coalition
CAROCP: the Association of Career and College Readiness Organizations
Central Valley Education Association
Central Valley Education Coalition
Chino Valley Unified School District
Claremont Unified School District
Coastline ROP
College and Career Advantage
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District
Dinuba Unified School District
Eden Area ROP
Kings Canyon Unified School District
Kingsburg Joint Union High School District
Mission Valley ROP
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
Orange County Department of Education
Parlier Unified School District
Riverside County Office of Education
San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools
Sanger Unified School District
School Employers Association of California
Selma Unified School District
Small School Districts' Association
Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Program
Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program
Upland Unified School District
Valley Regional Occupational Program

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 49-18, 6/3/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Flora, Irwin, Papan, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/14/26 11:46:12

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1018
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 7/15/25
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 50-16, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Automated decision systems

SOURCE: Service Employees International Union California
TechEquity Action

DIGEST: This bill regulates the use of "automated decision systems" (ADS). It places obligations on developers and deployers of such systems designed or used to make or facilitate "consequential decisions."

Senate Floor amendments of 9/5/25 narrow the scope of this bill by, in part, carving out certain generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems and adding several exemptions. The amendments also reduce the burden on developers and deployers by, in part, reducing the document retention timeline and including factors for courts to consider in assessing civil penalties.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 add various exemptions and significantly narrow the bill by, among other things, removing requirements to conduct risk assessments and audits, and limiting certain rights to "adverse outcomes."

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict the sale of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.100 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Consumer Privacy Rights Act (CPRA), which amends the CCPA and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency (PPA), which is charged with implementing these laws, promulgating regulations, and carrying out enforcement actions. (Civ. Code § 1798.100 et seq.; Proposition 24 (2020).)

3) Establishes the Civil Rights Department, and sets forth its statutory functions, duties, and powers. (Government (Gov.) Code § 12930.)

4) Establishes the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). (Gov. Code § 12900 et seq.)

5) Establishes the Unruh Civil Rights Act. (Civ. Code § 51.)

6) Defines "trade secret" under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act as information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that meets specified criteria. (Civ. Code § 3426.1(d).)

7) Requires the California Department of Technology (CDT) to conduct a comprehensive inventory of all high-risk ADS that have been proposed for use, development, or procurement by, or are being used, developed, or procured by, any state agency. It defines the relevant terms. (Gov. Code § 11546.45.5.)

This bill:

1) Requires a developer that sells, licenses, or otherwise transfers a covered ADS to a potential deployer to provide the deployer with specified information.

2) Dictates the process and form that any documentation required to be provided to a deployer by a developer must take.

3) Provides that the above do not apply to a developer subject to the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act who uses a covered ADS to make or facilitate a consequential decision related to financial services, as described.

4) Requires a deployer, before it finalizes a consequential decision made or facilitated by a covered ADS, and after it finalizes such a decision that results in an adverse outcome, to provide any subject of that decision with specified information. A deployer must also provide the subject with an opportunity to correct any incorrect personal information used and to appeal the adverse consequential decision according to specified processes. Dictates the process and form that documentation required to be provided to a subject by a deployer must take.

5) Provides certain exemptions from the above requirements for deployers subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

6) Provides that a deployer's collection, use, retention, and sharing of personal information from a subject of a consequential decision shall be reasonably necessary and proportionate to achieve the purposes for which the personal information was collected and processed, or for another disclosed purpose that is compatible with the context in which the personal information was collected, and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.

7) Provides the conditions under which a deployer assumes the responsibilities of a developer.

8) Imposes retention requirements on developers and deployers with respect to specified documentation.

9) Allows for the redaction of certain information revealing trade secrets, as provided, but requires disclosure of such withholding and the basis for it.

10) Authorizes enforcement actions against developers or deployers to be brought by specified public entities.

11) Authorizes a court to award a prevailing plaintiff in such actions specified remedies, including a civil penalty of up to $25,000 per violation. It provides courts with relevant circumstances to be considered in assessing the civil penalty.

12) Exempts specified ADS, entities regulated by HIPAA, and certain medical devices.

13) Clarifies the relevance of compliance, or the failure to comply, with these provisions in actions pursuant to the Unruh Civil Rights Act and FEHA.

14) Defines AI, ADS, trade secret, adverse outcome, and personal information in accordance with existing law and defines other relevant terms.

Background

ADS, especially those powered by AI, are being increasingly deployed in a multitude of contexts, including employment, housing, education, and health care. Major transparency and fairness concerns have been raised about the use of ADS to make consequential decisions, essentially determinations with significant legal or other material effect on people's lives.

This bill seeks to regulate the development and deployment, by both public and private actors, of "covered ADS." Developers are required to provide deployers certain information, and deployers are required to provide certain notices to subjects of consequential decisions and afford certain rights to them.

This bill is sponsored by TechEquity Action and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California. It is supported by a variety of labor, consumer, privacy, and other advocacy groups, including Common Sense Media and Consumer Reports. It is opposed by a number of industry associations, including the Consumer Technology Association and the American Staffing Association. For a more thorough discussion, please see the Senate Judiciary Committee analysis of this bill, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Comments

According to the author:

> The use of automated decision systems (ADS) has become prevalent among Californian's daily lives and used within various sectors – including, housing, employment, and even in criminal justice sentencing and probation decisions. However, the algorithms that power ADS are often vulnerable to issues such as unrepresentative data, faulty classifications, and flawed design. These shortcomings can result in biased, discriminatory, or unfair outcomes. Rather than solving systemic problems, poorly designed ADS can

worsen the very harms they aim to address—ultimately hurting the people they are meant to help. AB 1018 provides the necessary guardrails by regulating the development and deployment of an ADS used to make consequential decisions. Additionally, the current role that an ADS plays in a consequential decision is hidden from consumers. Fundamentally, consumers should have the right to be well informed of how these ADS are used in life altering decisions. AB 1018 calls for transparency on the usage of ADS by requiring notice to consumers by deployers before and after a consequential decision. It is crucial that we take the necessary steps to ensure the technology is used responsibly and can be trusted. Well-intentioned but flawed technology is a matter of state concern. Guardrails and accountability are needed to ensure that technology does not further marginalize communities or broaden inequities.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds, General Fund) to local agencies that deploy ADS to make consequential decisions and must comply with the above-described requirements, possibly in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually statewide. For example, counties will be required to review all of their systems for compliance—including tools used for online testing, hiring, permitting, case management, risk assessments, and property management. They will also incur costs of audits, training, staffing, disclosures, appeals process, data retention, sending out notices, and potential legal exposure. If developers raise their cost as a result of this bill, these costs will be passed onto the counties. Counties may claim reimbursement of those costs if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this bill creates a new program or imposes a higher level of service on local agencies.

- The State Controller's Office (SCO) reports that it, and all other state governmental entities would be considered a "deployer," of an ADS, as defined in the bill. If SCO implemented one or multiple ADS systems that meet the criteria for oversight in AB 1018, SCO would anticipate needing the following General Fund Resources:

    - 2025-26: $1,408,000 for 7.0 two-year limited-term positions and one-time costs;

    - 2026-27: $1,384,000 for 7.0 two-year limited-term positions; and,

- 2027-28 and ongoing: $761,000 for 4.0 permanent positions.

SCO indicates that these estimates reflect the requirements for a large, complex agency such as the SCO managing sensitive personal and financial data across automated systems. Actual staffing may be adjusted depending on the complexity and scale of the deployed ADS. Some functions may overlap or be handled by existing staff with appropriate upskilling, while external contractors could augment capacity for short-term surges, such as during initial implementation or major audits. If AB 1018 becomes law, the SCO would need 5–7 information security staff—including a dedicated supervisor—for the initial implementation of AB 1018, with 3–4 (including the supervisor) required for ongoing security and compliance operations related to automated decision systems.

- Costs (special fund) of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the Labor Commissioner to enforce Labor Code violations, possibly in the millions of dollars, annually. Actual costs will depend on the number of enforcement actions and the amount of workload associated with each action.

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) estimates a fiscal impact of $2.5 million or less (General Fund, Unfair Competition Law Fund). The DOJ notes that implementation of this bill will be dependent upon the appropriation of funds. The DOJ will be unable to absorb the costs to comply with or implement the requirements of the bill within existing budgeted resources. The Consumer Protection Section (CPS), Civil Rights Enforcement Section (CRES) and Healthcare Rights & Access Section (HRA) within the Public Rights Division of the DOJ anticipate increased workloads in enforcing this bill beginning on January 1, 2026, and ongoing. The workload includes investigating and prosecuting violations. The Sections will require the following additional resources:

  - CPS: 1.0 Deputy Attorney General (DAG); 1.0 Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA); 1.0 Legal Secretary (LS); and, $250,000 for External Consultant for expert witness services to support investigation and prosecution;

  - CRES: 1.0 Deputy Attorney General (DAG); 1.0 Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA); 1.0 Legal Secretary (LS); and, $250,000 for External Consultant for expert witness services to support investigation and prosecution; and,

  - HRA: 1.0 Deputy Attorney General (DAG); 1.0 Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA); 1.0 Legal Secretary (LS); and, $250,000 for External Consultant for expert witness services to support investigation and prosecution.

- The Civil Rights Department (CRD) estimates a fiscal impact over $2 million (General Fund). CRD notes that this bill places requirements on ADS developers and deployers. It also provides the CRD with the authority to bring a civil action to enforce compliance with this bill. CRD anticipates requesting eight positions, including researchers/ research data specialists, associate governmental program analysts, and attorneys, approximately $2.2 million for FY 26-27, and $2.1 million for FY 27-28 and ongoing. In addition to covering the costs of the new positions, these resources would also fund an ongoing contract with an expert consultant, IT and other administrative costs, and a one-time job analysis that would be required for one of the research positions. These resources would be necessary to support the complex legal and technological analysis required to enforce the components of this bill.

- The State Water Board estimates a significant fiscal impact (General Fund, special funds) likely in the millions of dollars per year. The State Water Board reports, as written, this bill's definition of automated decision system is vague, ambiguous, and could encompass many current tools used, like excel workbooks. These tools are used broadly across Water Boards programs, and many are used to inform actions that could be considered consequential actions under the bill. To meet the bill's provision, the State Water Board estimates significant cost pressures, likely in the millions of dollars per year. Costs would allow the State Water Board to fulfill several requirements regarding each of these covered systems. This would include facilitating and conducting a performance evaluation, contracting with an independent third party to perform audits on any systems the Water Boards develops, notifying those impacted by the consequential decision about the use of the ADS, and providing an appeal process. Taking these steps for each covered system, if feasible at all, would require significant additional staff and contract resources in the millions of dollars annually, impacting all Water Boards' fund sources. Alternatively, State Water Board programs would need to find ways to store, process, and analyze data to make decisions without using any tool which would qualify as an automated decision system. Costs would be incurred from all eligible State Water Board fund sources.

- UC Health estimates a fiscal impact of $42 million in one-time costs and approximately $24 million in ongoing costs to implement AB 1018. Compliance costs for the University's health systems include expenses related to implementing required audits, administrative processes, staff training, and system modifications.

- The California Department of Health and Human Services (CalHHS) reports a significant fiscal impact (General Fund, special funds). The Office of Technology and Solutions Integration (OTSI) estimates costs, across the 12 CalHHS departments, in the low millions up to low tens of millions (Total Fund) annually as solutions applicable under the bill are expected to grow in use over the coming years. These costs are estimated and attributable due to legal and security resources for monitoring and enforcement, compliance oversight, IT development and staffing necessary for governance and appeals management. This bill could impact many of the Agency's information systems and data solutions as Generative AI solutions are being built into many of the tools used. Evaluation and governance will become ongoing cost-pressure as it becomes necessary to review not just risk/compliance related to AI components of solutions, but applicability to the requirements of this bill. This bill would require programming and processing revisions, stakeholder engagement, development and operation of an appeal process in all cases, along with a third-party audit (beginning in 2030). The costs to implement this bill depends on the number of solutions and complexity of developing and resourcing the appeals processes that are yet to be determined. This estimate does not include potential increased contracting costs due to vendors including costs for conducting the assessment and other requirements.

- The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reports that it does not currently use platforms it considers to be Automated Decision Systems (ADS). As a result, CDCR does not anticipate immediate costs associated with the requirements in AB 1018. However, should the department choose to implement or develop systems in the future that meet the bill's definition of an ADS, there could be costs associated with compliance. These may include but are not limited to performance evaluations, third-party audits, disclosure and documentation requirements, and staff oversight responsibilities outlined in the bill. It should be noted that CDCR uses several risk assessment tools, including, but not limited to, the Static-99R to assess every eligible sex offender prior to release on parole, the California Static Risk Assessment tool to assess the risk of reoffending, the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions

(COMPAS) to assess an incarcerated individuals needs and target those needs, and the Automated Reentry Management System (ARMS). If this bill is interpreted to apply to these tools, CDCR, and other correctional agencies, could potentially incur a significant fiscal impact.

- The Department of Finance (DOF) reports potential unknown costs (General Fund) and indicates that that this bill may apply to its ongoing pilot using generative artificial intelligence to assist with bill analyses.

- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the Judicial Council, likely in the hundreds of millions annually. This bill could hamper the ability of trial courts and their justice partners to use several tools, including SARATSO for sex offenders, and many others, such as pretrial risk assessment tools minimize bias in pretrial detention situations. Developers of these tools, including nonprofits, universities, and even the state of Virginia, are unlikely to make any adjustments as would be required under this bill. As such, the entire judicial branch could potentially lose the use of all pretrial risk assessment tools, as their developers do not necessarily have a strong financial incentive to adhere to this bill's stringent requirements. Courts also use tools such as MyCitation, which would also be affected. MyCitation is a tool created by the Judicial Council pursuant to AB 143 (Committee on Budget) Stats. 2021, ch. 79, designed as an easy-to-use option for defendants to provide relevant financial information for the court to consider reductions in infraction fines and fees owed.

- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). By authorizing a new civil penalty with statutory damages, this bill will likely lead to additional case filings that otherwise would not have been commenced, with attendant workload and resource costs to the court. This bill may result in additional trial court costs to the extent that cases are brought to litigate its constitutionality. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 in staff in workload. This is a conservative estimate, based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund

additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

- Costs (General Fund, special funds) of an unknown but significant amount to each state agency that deploys ADS to make or contribute to consequential decisions and must comply with this bill's notice, opt-out, correction, appeal, and, if applicable, audit requirements. In the aggregate, for all affected state agencies, costs may be in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually ongoing.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/22/26)

SEIU California (source)
TechEquity Action (source)
ACCE Action (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment)
American Federation of Musicians, Local 7
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
California Center for Movement Legal Services
California Civil Liberties Advocacy
California Community Foundation
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Initiative on Technology and Democracy
California National Organization for Women
California Professional Firefighters
California School Employees Association
California Women's Law Center
CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Child Care Law Center
Citizen's Privacy Coalition
Common Sense Media
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Federation of California
Consumer Reports
Courage California
East Bay Community Law Center
Economic Security California Action
Electronic Privacy Information Center
End Child Poverty California Powered by Grace

Equal Rights Advocates
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Greenlining Institute
Housing Now!
Justice2jobs Coalition
Kapor Center
LA Defensa
LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Mujeres Unidas Y Activas
Northern California District Council of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Oakland Privacy
Parent Voices
Powerswitch Action
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Public Citizen
Restoring Hope California
Rubicon Programs
Smart Justice California
Surveillance Resistance Lab
Tech Oversight Project
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
UFCW - Western States Council
Vision Y Compromiso
Women's Foundation California
Working Partnerships USA
Worksafe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/22/26)

Advanced Medical Technology Association
Aerospace and Defense Alliance of California
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists - District Ix
American Financial Services Association
American Innovators Network
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
American Staffing Association
America's Physician Groups
Associated General Contractors of California

Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies
Association of National Advertisers
Business Software Alliance
Business Software Association
Calbroadband
Calcom Association
California Association of Clerks & Election Officials
California Association of Health Plans
California Bankers Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Community Banking Network
California Credit Union League
California Dental Association
California Financial Services Association
California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
California Hospital Association
California Land Title Association
California Life Sciences
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
California Medical Association
California Mortgage Bankers Association
California Radiological Society
California Retailers Association
California Staffing Professionals
Chamber of Progress
Civil Justice Association of California
College Board
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Connected Commerce Council
Consumer Data Industry Association
Consumer Technology Association
CTIA
Delta Dental of California
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce
Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce
Family Business Association of California
Financial Technology Association
Fiserv
Folsom Chamber of Commerce

Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Innovative Lending Platform Association
Internet Works
Internet.works
Judicial Council of California
Kaiser Permanente
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Ochin, INC.
Orange County Business Council
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Psinapse Techology
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce
Receivables Management Association International
Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association
Security Industry Association
Shingle Springs/cameron Park Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Society for Human Resource Management
Software Information Industry Association
STAR Staffing
Sutter Health
Techca
Technet
The Payments Coalition
United Chamber Advocacy Network Ucan
University of California
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
Yuba Sutter Chamber of Commerce

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A broad coalition, including the sponsors, SEIU California and TechEquity Action, write: While the advent of generative AI and large language models has been a new piece of the puzzle, ADS have long existed

in our communities. ADS have been woven into the daily lives of our community members—increasingly these tools are dictating access to and the quality of housing, healthcare, employment, credit, and many other critical services Californians need. The potential harms and biases of these systems have been well documented—from banks using lending models that were twice as likely to deny Black applicants compared to White applicants with the same financial profile,[1] to healthcare providers using ADS that significantly underestimated the healthcare needs of Black patients compared to White ones.[2] Technology should not be a pass to violate our civil and labor rights, this legislation regulates the misuse of automated systems.

AB 1018 would enact common-sense guardrails to help ensure that developers and deployers of these tools are testing for discriminatory outcomes prior to utilizing the tool and ensuring that consumers have the information they need to understand the role that an ADS is playing in critical decisions and what rights they have when these systems impact critical areas of their lives.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of financial industry groups, including the California Credit Union League, writes:

While Section 22756.2(b)(1) provides the authority to a financial institution to deny an opt-out request for financial services providers regulated under the Gramm Leach Bliley Act, the nation's most robust law governing how financial information is used, it is unclear to us why there is not a similar exemption from the entirety of the bill. As written today, financial institutions could choose to categorically deny any consumer's opt-out request. This will ultimately frustrate and confuse consumers, which is the opposite of the state intention of AB 1018 – which is to bring more transparency.

The Equal Credit Opportunities Act (ECOA) and Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) already require creditors to provide a notice to consumers when they are denied credit detailing the reason for the denial and a method to dispute the accuracy or completeness of any information that led to the denial. Yet, financial services must still provide an opportunity to correct information, which is duplicative of FCRA, and an opportunity to appeal, which can impact the lending process. Establishing a consumer appeal provision would require a type of manual underwriting that has not been regularly used in the mortgage industry for nearly three decades. The current mortgage origination process relies on automated

[1] **https://themarkup.org/denied/2021/08/25/the-secret-bias-hidden-in-mortgage-approval-algorithms**.
[2] **https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/25/healthcare-algorithm-racial-biases-optum**.

systems such as AUSs and Credit Scoring Models (CSMs) that do not have usable or scalable alternative manual processes.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 50-16, 6/2/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ahrens, Alanis, Bains, Carrillo, Flora, Pacheco, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Valencia, Wallis

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 12:02:06

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1039
Author: Hart (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 7/8/25
AYES: Padilla, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State-funded assistance grants and contracts: advance payments

SOURCE: California Association of Nonprofits

DIGEST: This bill requires, rather than authorizes, an administering state agency to advance a payment to a recipient entity, as defined, in accordance with specified requirements for all grants and contracts entered into after January 1, 2026, and requires the solicitation for the grant or contract to state the percentage of funds that may be distributed as an advance payment, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 are technical and clarifying in nature.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes a state agency administering a grant program or contract to advance a payment to a recipient entity, subject to specified requirements.

2) Requires the administering state agency, among other things, to prioritize recipient entities and projects serving disadvantaged, low-income, and under-resourced communities, to stipulate an advanced payment structure and request process within the grant agreement or contract, and to ensure an advance payment to the recipient entity does not exceed 25% of the total grant or contract amount, except as specified.

This bill:

1) Requires, rather than authorizes, an administering state agency to advance a payment to a recipient entity, as specified, for all grants and contracts advertised on or after January 1, 2026. The solicitation of the grant or contract shall state the percentage of the grant or contract funds that may be distributed as an advance payment.

2) Limits the existing requirement an administering state agency prioritize recipient entities and projects, as specified, to grants and contracts advertised prior to January 1, 2026.

3) Eliminates the requirement to stipulate an advanced payment structure and request process, as specified.

4) Limits the requirement that recipient entities deposit funds received as an advance payment into a federally insured account to apply only to grants and contracts in excess of $10,000.

5) Provides that recipient entities that receive advanced payments may advance funds from the advance payment to any sub-recipients in accordance with their grant program requirements or contract.

6) Requires the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), in consultation with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of General Services (DGS) to develop a Statewide Advance Funds and Reconciliation Guide (Master Guide), as specified.

7) Requires every state agency to adopt the Master Guide as its standard operating procedure for the disbursement, tracking, and reconciliation of advance payments, as specified.

8) Requires the SGC to provide an annual training webinar for state agency staff to ensure uniform application of the Master Guide and dedicated technical assistance and guidance to community organizations and nonprofit entities.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "AB 1039 is necessary to address a key barrier that prevents under-resourced communities from applying for and implementing state-funded projects: inconsistent application of the state's advance pay policy for contracts and grants administered by state agencies across government. By ensuring nonprofits can secure a percentage of contracted funds up front for all new funding opportunities, effective January 1, 2026, AB 1039 will improve the nonprofit sector's capacity to provide quality services to communities and carry out state-funded priorities. The bill also supports stronger transparency about a funding opportunity's terms, including clearer indication of the available percentage of advance pay."

Nonprofits and the State. The state of California relies heavily on nonprofits to implement critical policies and provide essential services to its communities. These organizations play a pivotal role in addressing homelessness, building affordable housing, responding to climate change impacts, supporting victims of domestic violence, community infrastructure, and improving the lives of vulnerable community members in myriad ways. The eligibility criteria can vary depending on the specific grant. Generally, grants are categorized by applicant type, such as nonprofits, individuals, businesses, public agencies, or tribal governments. Each grant listing provides detailed eligibility requirements, which can be found on the California Grants Portal.

Action by Assembly and Senate Select Committees. On February 17, 2022, the Assembly and Senate Select Committees on the Nonprofit Sector held a joint hearing featuring panelists and public comment from nonprofit leaders across the state. The hearing, entitled, "A Blueprint to Ensure Nonprofits are Supported and Thrive during Future Emergencies," focused on the challenges nonprofits faced in implementing programs during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The committees concluded that, "government contracting challenges remain a key barrier for nonprofits providing needed services. Strong government-nonprofit partnerships are vital to ensure Californians have access to quality services and programs, to support the nonprofit sector as key employers in the state, and to bolster economic recovery, particularly in historically underserved communities."

Advanced Payment Pilot. As part of 2022-23 fiscal year (FY) state budget, AB 156 (Chapter 569, Statutes of 2022) authorized, until July 1, 2025, state agencies administering specified programs to advance payments to local agencies, nongovernmental entities, and other state agencies if certain criteria are met, including requiring advance payment recipients to provide an itemized budget, spending timeline, and work plan. The bill limited the advance payment to a local agency or nongovernmental entity to 25% of the total grant amount awarded to that recipient, unless the administering state agency determines that the project requires a larger advance.

The pilot program required the recipient or any sub-recipients to cooperate with audits by the DOF related to the advanced payments. It also required the administering state agency to prioritize local agency or nongovernmental entity recipients and projects serving disadvantaged, low-income, and under-resourced communities or organizations with modest reserves and potential cash flow problems. The program requires the local agency and nongovernmental entity recipients to submit additional documentation and progress reports on the spend-down of funds, and to demonstrate good standing with the federal Internal Revenue Service. Finally, the bill required the DOF, by January 10, 2025, to report to the Legislature on this program.

Advanced Payment Pilot Program Report. The report submitted by DOF in January of this year, evaluated the outcomes of the pilot project's effort to improve the state's ability to issue advance payments for state-funded local assistance grants. The program authorized six state agencies to provide upfront funding to eligible local agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other governmental entities, particularly those serving disadvantaged communities or experiencing cash flow constraints. Key criteria for eligibility included a cap on the advance amount (25% of the total grant) unless otherwise justified.

As of November 30, 2024, four of the six authorized agencies – Employment Development Department (EDD), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) – issued a total of 26 advance payments under the pilot program. These payments supported a variety of initiatives, including the Community Economic Resilience Fund, Transformative Climate Communities Program, and ecological restoration efforts.

Prior/Related Legislation

AB 880 (Bennett, 2025) revises the California Prompt Payment Act by requiring state agencies to reimburse a nonprofit grantee's indirect costs at specified rates and removes the $500,000 cap that previously exempted certain Medi-Cal-related payments from penalty provisions. Additionally, the bill narrows the circumstances under which the state can dispute an invoice and expands the definition of "grant" to include agreements with nonprofit organizations, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown, potentially significant costs for the SGC to develop the Master Guide and to create and implement training for agency staff.

Unknown costs for DGS to promote the Master Guide, incorporate its processes into the State Administrative Manual (SAM) and State Contracting Manual (SCM), and provide guidance to state agencies.

Unknown, potentially significant costs for state agencies to adopt the Master Guide and provide advance payments to recipient entities for grants and contracts. Actual costs will range from absorbable to hundreds of thousands of dollars per agency, depending on the contract type and whether the agency has existing advance payment processes in place in its grant disbursement or contracting practices.

The California State Library anticipates absorbable costs to modify its Grants Portal to track the percentage of grant or contract funds distributed in advance payments.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Association of Nonprofits (Source)
211 San Diego
A New Beginning FFA
AAPI Equity Alliance
Abode Services
Academy of Leonardo's Apprentice
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
Access Humboldt
AccountingX LLC
Advancing Students Forward
African American Community Services Agency

All for Kids
Alzheimer's Orange County
Amigos De Bolsa Chica
APIDANH Alliance
Arts and Culture El Dorado
Arts Orange County
ASIAN, INC.
Asociacion De Emprendedor@s
Aspiranet
Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
Association of California Community and Energy Services
Association of California Goodwills
Association of California Symphony Orchestras
Autism Society Inland Empire
Bay Area Community Resources
Becky Foreman Facilitation and Training
Benjamin Jones Community Resource Center
Black Women for Wellness
Black Women for Wellness Action Project
Boys & Girls Club -- Laguna Beach
Brilliant Corners
Building Resilient Communities
CA Arts Advocates
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association of Nonprofits
California Behavioral Health Association
California Center for Cooperative Development
California Community Living Network
California Council of Land Trusts
California Language Teachers' Association
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California School-age Consortium
Calle 24 Latino Cultural District
CalPride
Cameo Network
Camp Ocean Pines, INC
Canal Alliance
Capacity Impact Builders
Catalyst Family INC.
Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children, INC.

CEDAW Challenge Team
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Living and Learning
Centinela Youth Services
Central American Resource Center of California
Central American Resource Center of Northern California
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
Central Valley Opportunity Center
Centro Inmigrante, INC.
Ceres Community Project
Charitable Ventures
Child & Family Center
Children's Fund
Children's Institute
Children's Law Center of California
Chrysalis
Church of Movement
City Garage
Coastal Kids
Comite Civico Del Valle, INC
Community Alliance With Family Farmers
Community Bridges
Community Environmental Council
Community Foodbank of San Benito
Community Interventions
Community Resource Project
Community Works
Compassion Institute
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services
Creative Alternatives
Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
Crop Swap LA
Crystal Clear Biz Ops
Culture Scholar Corporation
Cycle Advisors
DeafHope
Divine Truth Unity Fellowship Church Dba Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance
Dixie Fire Canopy Project
Donna Sternberg & Dancers
Dreams for Change

EconAlliance
EG SPEAKS
Elder Love USA, INC.
Embrace Change Now
Equal Justice Society
Equality California
ERISAT-Eritrean Satellite Television
Every Day Action
Exploratorium, the
EYESHINE
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California
Faith in Action
Family Paths, INC.
Family Resource Center
Family Service Association
FASD Network of Southern California
Fathers and Mothers Who Care
First Mayor's House
Focused on Growth Academy
Folsom Cordova Community Partnership
Food Access LA
Food Share Ventura County
FORCES
Future Leaders of America
Give for a Smile
Giving 365
Global Refugee Awareness Healing Center
Grantland L Johnson Institute of Leadership Development
Grants and Grassroots
Greenlining Institute
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Guild for Psychological Studies
HARC, INC.
Heal the Ocean
Health Care Integrated Services
Healy Senior Center
High Desert Community Foundation
High Desert New Beginnings, INC.
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley
Honore's Home of Care

Hospice Help Network
HSS, Inc.
Human Health Project
Inland Caregiver Resource Center
Inland Empire Community Collaborative
Inland Empire Community Foundation
Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Inland Equity Community Land Trusts
Instituto De Educacion Popular Del Sur De California
Integrated Learning Institute
Integrated Recovery Network
Jacob's Heart Children's Support Services
Jen Weiss Consulting
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Services of Long Beach and Orange County
Joslyn Center for Seniors
Journey Center
Juarez Consulting INC.
Juma Ventures
Kamali'i Foster Family Agency
Kings River Conservancy
Kitchens for Good
Koinonia Family Services
Koreatown Youth + Community Center
KWMR, INC.
LA Cooperativa Campesina De California
LA N Sync Laity Institute of the Arts
LA Raza Centro Legal
Lake County Community Foundation
Lake Family Resource Center
Las Fotos Project
Latino Service Providers
LeadingAge California
League of California Community Foundations
Leah's Pantry, INC.
Lighthouse Silicon Valley
Little Brothers-friends of the Elderly- Bay Area
Little Manila Rising
Little Seeds Matter
Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of San Luis Obispo County

Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
Los Padres Forest Watch
Lumina Alliance
Making Hope Happen Foundation
MALO
Marin Shakespeare Company
Maternal and Child Health Access
Meals on Wheels Orange County
Media Alliance
Mendocino Private Industry Council, INC.
Microenterprise Collaborative of Inland Southern California
Mission Hope
Mixed Emotion Theatrix
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project
Moffett Field Historical Society & Museum
Moreno Seeds Foundation
Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises INC.
Mountain Homeless Coalition
Move Santa Barbara County
Music Changing Lives
National Black Grads
National Harm Reduction Coalition
Nature for All
Nehemiah Charitable Fund
Nevada County Media
New Horizons: Serving Individuals With Special Needs
Newport Beach Public Library Foundation
No Drugs America Association, INC
Nonprofit Connection Santa Cruz County
Northern California Grantmakers
Northern Santa Barbara County United Way
Open Paths Counseling Center
Operation New Hope
Orange County Coastkeeper
ORCD Global
Orcutt Area Seniors in Service, INC.
Out of the Ashes Organization
Outdoor Outreach
Oxnard Performing Arts Center Corporation

Pacific Arts Movement
Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association
Pacific Horizons of California
Parkview Legacy Foundation
Partnership for a Better San Diego
Pasadena Village
PathPoint
Peninsula Youth Theatre
Plumas Corporation
Pro Youth & Families
Radiant Health Centers
Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance
Rebuilding Together Peninsula
Rehabilitation and Employment Serve of the East Bay, INC.
Repeat Reuse
Rescue-a-life Foundation
Richmond Community Foundation
Rising Communities (formerly Community Health Councils)
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
Riverside County Black Chamber Health and Wellness Foundation INC.
Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
S & L Foster Family Agency
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera
Sage Pathways, INC
San Diego Energy District
San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy
Santa Barbara County Food Action Network
Santa Barbara County Immigrant Legal Defense Center
Santa Barbara Foundation
SCCCC Rebuilding Lives FFA
Self Help Enterprises
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Shangri-La Transitions
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Sierra Nevada Children's Museum
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
South Asian Network
Southern California Brass Consortium, INC.

Southern California Grantmakers
Starting Over INC.
Starting Over Strong
Streetlights
Studio 395 Foundation
Tahoe Youth and Family Services
Teens 4 Teens Help
The Francisco Homes
The Good Part Perspective
The Green Lining Institute
The Heroic Journey SEL and Mental Health
The Impact Fund
The Joslyn Center
The Kinship Fund
The Mom & Dad Project
The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad and Historical Modeling Society
The Nonprofit Partnership
The School Garden Doctor
The Stephan Center
Thrive Alliance
Tracy Community Connections Center
TreePeople
True North Housing Alliance, INC.
Tuleyome
Union Station Homeless Services
United Ways of California
UpValley Family Centers of Napa County
Valley Intercommunity Council
Ventura Land Trust
Ventures
Vision Y Compromiso
Visionality
Walden Family Services
Watts of Power Foundation
World Be Well Organization
YMCA of Greater Long Beach
Yolo County Children's Alliance
You Life Skills and Leadership Educational Foundation
Youth Action Project

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, CalNonprofits writes that, "[a]dvanced pay provisions are currently authorized but not mandated under state law via enactment of Assembly Bill 590 (Hart, Chapter 535, Statutes of 2023). By requiring advance pay under AB 1039 for new grant and contract opportunities, the state can continue to address hurdles that dissuade under-resourced communities from applying for and implementing state-funded projects. Many state grants and contracts remain reimbursement-based two years after enactment of AB 590."

Further, the "lack of equitable access to advance payments is an unnecessary barrier to the nonprofit sector's effective partnership with the state at a time when new threats are emerging every day from both the federal government and environmental challenges like devastating wildfires. Now more than ever we must prioritize stronger partnerships between nonprofits and the state. Under 1039, nonprofits that may be best equipped to deliver timely and effective projects (but short on up-front capital) would no longer be forced to pass on numerous grants and contracts to support vulnerable Californians."

And finally, this bill is "part of the California Nonprofit Equity Initiative that our organizations, along with more than 500 other nonprofit and community leaders, is supporting to level the playing field for nonprofits. Improving how state government contracts with nonprofits is a question of equity for our most vulnerable communities and for the nonprofits that serve them. AB 1039 will strengthen the essential partnership between the state and nonprofits and our mutual efforts to deliver the highest quality services to the people of California."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530

8/24/26 13:36:45

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1099
Author: Bryan (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/25
AYES: Arreguín, Ochoa Bogh, Becker, Limón, Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Developmental services: initial intake

SOURCE: Children's Law Center of California
Disability Rights California
Public Counsel

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires a regional center to facilitate a case conference within 15 working days following an initial request for assistance for intakes involving a child welfare involved child or youth; (2) prohibits a determination not to provide additional assessment from being solely based on the age of the person when they received a diagnosis of a qualifying condition; and (3) requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to annually post on its website specified data related to initial intakes and assessment and eligibility determinations.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 make clarifying changes regarding interagency coordination.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act), which states that California is responsible for providing a range of services and supports sufficiently complete to meet the needs and choices of each person with developmental disabilities, regardless of age or degree of disability, and at each stage of life, and to support their integration into the mainstream life of the community. (Welfare and Institutions Code Section (WIC §4500 et seq.)

2) Establishes a system of nonprofit regional centers, overseen by DDS, to provide fixed points of contact in the community for all persons with developmental disabilities and their families, to coordinate services and supports best suited to them throughout their lifetime. (WIC §4620)

3) Defines "developmental disability" to mean a disability that originates before an individual attains 18 years of age, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for that individual. As defined by the Director of DDS, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, provides that this term shall include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. Provides that this term shall also include disabling conditions found to be closely related to intellectual disability or to require treatment similar to that required for individuals with an intellectual disability, but shall not include other handicapping conditions that are solely physical in nature. (WIC §4512(a))

4) Makes any person believed to have a developmental disability, and any person believed to have a high risk of parenting a developmentally disabled infant, eligible for initial intake and assessment services in the regional centers. In addition, provides that any infant having a high risk, as defined, of becoming developmentally disabled may be eligible for intake and assessment services in the regional centers. (WIC §4642(a)(1))

5) Requires initial intake to be performed within 15 working days following request for assistance. Requires initial intake to include, but not be limited to, information and advice about the nature and availability of services provided by the regional center and by other agencies in the community, including guardianship, conservatorship, income maintenance, mental health, housing, education, work activity and vocational training, medical, dental, recreational, and other services or programs that may be useful to persons with developmental disabilities or their families. Requires intake to also include a decision to provide assessment. (WIC §4642(a)(2))

6) Requires, commencing on January 1, 2025, the regional center to take the following actions by the end of the 15-day initial intake period:

   a) Either of the following actions:

      i) Determine if the individual is eligible for regional center services.

      ii) Determine if the regional center will initiate the assessment specified in (7) below.

   b) Inform the individual requesting intake of the regional center's action.

   c) If the regional center determines that the individual is not eligible for regional center services, or that the regional center is not initiating the assessment specified in (7) below, provide the individual requesting intake and, if appropriate, the individuals' parents, legal guardian or conservator, or authorized representative, with adequate notice, as specified. (WIC §4642(a)(3))

7) Requires, if assessment is needed, the assessment to be performed within 120 days following initial intake. Requires assessment to be performed as soon as possible and in no event more than 60 days following initial intake where any delay would expose the client to unnecessary risk to their health and safety or to significant further delay in mental or physical development, or the client would be at imminent risk of placement in a more restrictive environment. Provides that assessment may include collection and review of available historical diagnostic data, provision or procurement of necessary tests and evaluations, and summarization of developmental levels and service needs and is conditional upon receipt of the release of information specified in (8) below. (WIC §4643(a))

8) Authorizes the regional center, in determining if an individual meets the definition of developmental disability, the regional center may consider evaluations and tests, including, but not limited to, intelligence tests, adaptive functioning tests, neurological and neuropsychological tests, diagnostic tests performed by a physician, psychiatric tests, and other tests or evaluations that have been performed by, and are available from, other sources. (WIC §4643(b))

9) Requires at the time of assessment, the individual, or, where appropriate, the parents, legal guardian, or conservator, to provide copies of any health benefit cards under which the consumer is eligible to receive health benefits, including, but not limited to, private health insurance, a health care service plan, Medi-Cal, Medicare, and TRICARE. If the individual, or, where appropriate, the

parents, legal guardians, or conservators, have no such benefits, prohibits the regional center from using that fact to negatively impact the services that the individual may or may not receive from the regional center. (WIC 4643(c))

10) Provides that a juvenile case file may be inspected only by certain personnel, as specified. (WIC §827)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a county welfare or probation department to disseminate information from the juvenile case file about a child who may be eligible for regional center services to a regional center as necessary for the regional center to complete the case conference required by 4) below and the intake assessment, including to determine whether any of the circumstances that require an expedited are present. Provides that any information provided to the regional center may only be further disseminated to the extent permitted by WIC §827.

2) Requires initial intake to include a decision to provide an eligibility assessment.

3) Prohibits a decision not to provide assessment from being based solely on the age of the person when they received diagnosis of a qualifying condition, as long as the qualifying condition originated before the person was 18 years of age.

4) Requires a regional center, for an initial intake involving a child welfare involved child or youth, to facilitate a case conference within 15 working days following the initial request for assistance to include the county child welfare services agency, probation department, or tribal consortium, as applicable, and, if appropriate, the person's parents, legal guardian or conservator, Indian custodian, or authorized representative.

5) Requires the case conference to clarify the consents, legal and judicial determinations, and documentation required, whether any of the circumstances necessitating an expedited assessment are present, and review the roles and requirements of each party based on the person-centered needs of the child welfare involved child or youth.

6) Specifies the case conference requirement shall not result in any delay to the child welfare involved child's or youth's right to a timely intake, assessment, or eligibility determination.

7) Requires DDS and the California Department of Social Services, by March 31, 2027, to issue joint guidance to operationalize the case conference requirement.

8) Requires a regional center, for a child welfare involved child or youth, when there is a lack of documentation provided, to work with the county child welfare services agency, probation department, or tribal consortium, as applicable, and, if appropriate, the person's parents, legal guardian or conservator, Indian custodian, or authorized representative to facilitate obtaining appropriate consents to release information and conduct necessary assessments, identify the sources and location of documents, and coordinate access to needed documentation, or directly procure other records which may be available and accessible and within the regional center's authority. Specifies documentation may include, but is not limited to, school, medical, or court records.

9) Requires DDS to consult with the California Department of Social Services and other Children and Youth System of Care partners and other community and representative organizations, as applicable, to develop joint guidance to align existing intake processes, roles, and responsibilities for child welfare involved child or youth.

10) Requires DDS, by January 30, 2027, to consult with the California Department of Social Services and obtain input from tribes, individuals with lived experience, and child welfare stakeholders to ensure consideration of child welfare involved children or youth in the development of the standardized intake processes, including, but not limited to, circumstances for which expedited intake processes would be required.

11) Requires a regional center to determine if the individual is provisionally eligible for regional center services by the end of the 15-day initial intake period.

12) Defines the following terms for purposes of this bill:

    a) "Child welfare involved child or youth" means any of the following:

        i) A child who has been removed from their home by a county child welfare services agency.

        ii) A child who is the subject of a juvenile court petition, as specified, whether or not the child has been removed from their home.

iii) A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court pursuant to the tribal court's jurisdiction in accordance with the tribe's law.

iv) A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement.

v) A nonminor dependent.

b) "Request for assistance" means any inquiry from an individual, or a person acting on their behalf, on the individual's possible eligibility to receive services or supports available or provided by the regional center based on a potential developmental concern or disability.

13) Provides that assessment may include collection and review of available historical diagnostic data, provision or procurement of necessary tests and evaluations, and summarization of developmental levels and service needs and is conditional upon receipt of the release of information and consents for assessments.

14) Prohibits a regional center from requiring an individual to use their health benefits before it conducts an assessment.

15) Requires regional centers to report any additional data metrics developed pursuant to this bill. Requires DDS to annually post on its internet website annual statewide intake data collected, by regional center and on a statewide-aggregate basis, inclusive of intake data regarding child welfare involved children or youth pursuant to this bill.

16) Requires DDS, commencing January 31, 2028, to annually post on its internet website statewide intake data pursuant to these provisions, to the extent allowed by current data systems, by regional center, and on a statewide-aggregate basis inclusive of intake data regarding child welfare involved children or youth.

17) Requires the public reporting requirements to be developed in consultation with the community and representative organizations, including the California Department of Social Services and other Children and Youth System of Care partners, as applicable. Requires the public reporting requirements to include, but not be limited to, the number of intakes, the timeliness of assessment and eligibility determinations, and the percentage of assessments resulting in eligibility by program, disaggregated by demographic groups, including age, geography, and race.

18) Provides that the extent and specificity of the required data reporting under this bill shall keep pace with the capacity of DDS' data systems as they evolve.

Background

Purpose of the Bill. According to the author, "For children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, getting the supports and training provided by the state's regional centers in a timely manner is critical to reducing child maltreatment, family disruption, and unnecessary institutionalization. Yet, foster youth routinely face significant delay in accessing these services due to the regional center's overly burdensome application process. AB 1099 removes administrative barriers from the process by ensuring that applicants are not denied purely on the basis of a lack of formal diagnosis or documentation, which many system-involved youth lack for reasons beyond their control."

Child Welfare Services. The child welfare services system is an essential component of the state's safety net. When a report of abuse or neglect is substantiated, a family is either provided with services to ensure the child's well-being and avoid court involvement, or the child is removed and placed into foster care. After the county child welfare department becomes involved with families, approximately 12 months of services are provided to children who are able to remain safely in their home while the family receives services. This is considered family preservation services and the child does not come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile dependency court during this time. If it is determined that a child cannot remain in the home, even with family preservation and support services, the child comes under the jurisdiction of the county's juvenile dependency court while the family is served by a child welfare services system social worker.

Studies have shown that while the child welfare system tends to err on the side of removal, removal itself can cause irreparable harm. According to research by the American Academy of Pediatrics, removal from parents can disrupt a child's brain architecture and negatively impact their health. The research goes on to note that not only are there psychological traumas at the time of removal; those can occur long after reunification. These children can experience post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and developmental delays.

Lanterman Act. In 1969, the Lanterman Act established that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have a right to receive the necessary supports and services required to live independently in the community. The Lanterman Act enumerates the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as the rights of their families, what services and supports are

available to these individuals, and how regional centers and service providers work together to provide these supports and services. The term "developmental disability" is defined as a disability that originates before a person reaches 18 years of age, is expected to continue indefinitely, and is a significant disability for the individual; such disabilities include, among others: epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and cerebral palsy. As there are no income-related eligibility criteria, Lanterman Act services are considered an entitlement program. The Department of Finance estimates that approximately 487,114 individuals will receive developmental services in 2025–26, increasing to 526,848 in 2026–27.

Regional Centers. Direct responsibility for implementation of the Lanterman Act's service system is shared by DDS and a statewide network of 21 regional centers, which are private, community-based nonprofit entities that contract with DDS to carry out many of the state's responsibilities. Regional center services may include diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, and care coordination of services such as personal care, day care, special living arrangements, and physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Regional center services are not consistent across the state. One often-cited strength of the regional center system is each regional center's local control and flexibility, while one challenge is the system's lack of uniformity.

Two-Step Eligibility Process. State law establishes a two-step process to determine whether an individual is eligible for regional center services. The first step is the initial 15-day intake period, where the individual with a suspected diagnosis first gets in touch with a regional center. Regional centers are required to provide information and advice about services provided by the regional center and other community agencies. Regional centers are also required to make a decision on whether they will provide assessment of the individual requesting services. If the regional center determines the individual is not eligible for regional center services, it must provide a notice of action regarding the denial.

If a regional center decides to move on to assessment, the second of the two-step eligibility process, it must perform an assessment within 120 days following the initial intake. For more vulnerable individuals at risk of harm to their health and safety or further developmental delays, or individuals at imminent risk of placement in a more restrictive environment, the regional center must perform an assessment within 60 days following the initial intake. All assessments may utilize available data and information, including medical evaluations, contingent upon release of such information.

Comments

The two-step intake and eligibility determination process disproportionately impacts foster children, who often do not have a formal medical diagnosis readily available and who experience frequent placement changes across city and county lines. According to the sponsors of this bill, it can take many months, or even years, to get an assessment, and even longer to establish eligibility, simply based on their status as a foster child. These delays commonly lead to placement instability and increased risk of institutionalization.

This bill seeks to ensure children in the foster care system receive a timely assessment for regional center services by requiring a regional center to facilitate a case conference within 15 working days for intakes involving a child welfare involved child or youth. This bill also requires DDS and the California Department of Social Services, in consultation with other community organizations, to develop joint guidance to align existing intake processes for child welfare involved children or youth. This bill seeks to streamline and expedite the delivery of regional center services for children with an eligible diagnosis. Access to these services and supports can provide stability to both the foster child and caregivers.

[Note: See the Senate Human Services Committee analysis for additional background on this bill.]

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1220 (Arambula) would have required DDS to compile and report data on denials of services and required a regional center to document in each consumer's individual program plan all of the consumer's denials of services, notices of actions, and appeals. The bill was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 1208 (Addis) would have required DDS, by July 1, 2026, to review and assess all established and pending regional center and vendored service provider quality, performance and outcome measures, and required DDS to consult with stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop a uniform set of measures, a mechanism to track measures over time, and performance indicators and benchmarks for regional centers. The bill was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

SB 138 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 192, Statutes of 2023), a budget trailer bill, among other things, required DDS to establish a standardized intake process for individuals to learn if they are eligible for regional center

services, and required regional centers to report how many individuals went through the intake process and how long the process took.

AB 2083 (Cooley, Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018) required each county to develop an MOU to describe the roles and responsibilities of certain entities that serve foster youth who have experienced severe trauma and instructs the secretary of CalHHS and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement and review aspects of the MOUs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely hundreds of thousands, for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for state administration.
- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs for increased workload for regional centers.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Children's Law Center of California (co-source)
Disability Rights California (co-source)
Public Counsel (co-source)
All of US or None Orange County
Alliance for Children's Rights
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Alliance of Caregivers
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Dependency Legal Services
Disability Voices United
East Bay Children's Law Offices
Easterseals Northern California
Families Inspiring Reentry & Reunification 4 Everyone
Hand in Hand: the Domestic Employers Network
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Public Law Center
SCDD
Special Needs Network, INC.
Starting Over INC.

Starting Over Strong
Sycamores
The Arc California
Western Center on Law & Poverty, INC.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/3/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

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8/24/26 13:29:43

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1129
Author: Celeste Rodriguez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 7/9/25
AYES: Menjivar, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 7/15/25
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/5/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Birth conditions monitoring

SOURCE: County of Los Angeles
March of Dimes

DIGEST: This bill permits a local health officer to maintain a system for the collection of information on birth conditions necessary to accomplish a local-level monitoring and reporting program similar to, but independent of, the state-level birth defects monitoring program, subject to adequate funding. Makes conforming changes in existing law to facilitate a local-level monitoring and reporting program.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 incorporate the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) technical assistance to refine provisions in this bill as follows:

1) Remove provisions of this bill from, and any mention of, CDPH's statewide Birth Defects Monitoring Program (BDMP)

2) Create new sections in law that permit local health jurisdictions to monitor and report birth conditions within their jurisdictions with similar privacy and health information protections, as well as program administration provisions, as those provided in the BDMP.

3) Clarify that local health jurisdictions' birth conditions monitoring and reporting programs are separate from the state's BDMP and Genetic Prevention Services (GPS).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to be vested with all the specified duties, powers, purposes, functions, responsibilities, and jurisdiction as they relate to public health. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 131050]

2) States Legislative intent to accomplish all of the following in relation to birth defects, stillbirths, and miscarriages that represent problems of public health importance; the severe mental anguish they have on parents and relatives; associated high medical care costs; and, how more information about these conditions could result in preventive measures to decrease their incidence:
   a) Maintain an ongoing program of "birth defects" monitoring (BDMP) statewide. "Birth defect" means any medical problem of organ structure, function, or chemistry of possible genetic or prenatal origin;
   b) Provide information on the incidence, prevalence, and trends of birth defects, stillbirths, and miscarriages, and information on whether they are associated with environmental hazards, or other possible causes;
   c) Develop prevention strategies for reducing the incidence;
   d) Conduct interview studies about the causes of birth defects; and,
   e) Affirm CDPH's authority to contract with a qualified entity to operate the BDMP statewide. [HSC §103825]

3) Requires CDPH's Director to maintain a system to collect information necessary to accomplish statewide monitoring through the BDMP, including requiring specified health facilities to make available medical records of children suspected or diagnosed as having birth defects, including the medical records of their mothers; and, to make available medical records of mothers suspected or diagnosed with stillbirths or miscarriages, and other records of

persons who may serve as controls for interview studies about the causes of birth defects. [HSC §103830]

4) Requires the BDMP to operate statewide. States Legislative intent to assess annually the adequacy of program resources, and that the annual assessment include a consideration of at least the numbers of births in the state; the scope of program activities; and, any urgent situation requiring extraordinary commitment of present or planned program staff or resources. [HSC §103835]

5) Requires CDPH's Director to use the information collected through the system it maintains and information available from other reporting systems and health providers to conduct studies to investigate the causes of birth defects, stillbirths, and miscarriages and to determine and evaluate measures designed to prevent their occurrence. [HSC §103840]

6) Requires CDPH's Director to appoint an advisory committee to advise on the implementation of the BDMP. Requires that representatives from epidemiology, hospital administration, biostatistics, maternal and child health, and public health be on the committee and at least one representative to be from the manufacturing industry. [HSC §103845]

7) Requires all information collected to be confidential and used solely for the BDMP. Limits access to this information to authorized program staff and persons with a valid scientific interest, who have specified qualifications; are engaged in demographic, epidemiological, or other similar studies related to health; and, agree in writing to maintain confidentiality. Requires, among other things, CDPH to maintain accurate records of all persons given access to this information; processes for when research is conducted other than by program staff; and, requirements before this information is disclosed. [HSC §103850]

8) Permits CDPH to enter into a contract for the establishment and implementation of the BDMP, with the authority to establish criteria for the contract. [HSC §103855]

9) Requires CDPH to charge a fee to all payers for any test or activity for genetic prevention services. Creates the BDMP Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury. Requires the fee revenues that are collected to be deposited into the fund to support BDMP activities. [HSC §124977]

10) Requires the BDMP to collect and store any umbilical cord blood samples received from hospitals for storage and research. Requires the BDMP, for purposes of ensuring financial stability, to ensure: fees paid by researchers be used for, and be sufficient to cover the cost of, collecting and storing blood samples; a researcher provides satisfactory evidence that adequate funding will be provided to CDPH from the fees paid by the researcher for the request; and, CDPH receives federal grant moneys to pay for initial startup costs for the collection and storage of umbilical cord blood samples. [HSC §124991(a)]

This bill:

1) Permits a local health officer to maintain a system for the collection of information within the local health jurisdiction, and to require reporting institutions within their jurisdictions to participate, that is necessary to accomplish a local-level monitoring and reporting program similar to, but independent of, the state-level BDMP, subject to adequate funding.

2) Permits information about birth conditions to be reported using either of the following systems at the discretion of the public health director or the local health officer:
   a) A system that requires reporting institutions within the local health jurisdiction to make their records available for review and information collection by designated staff of the local program to monitor birth conditions; or,
   b) A system that requires reporting institutions within the local health jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, providers and laboratories, to transmit specified data manually or electronically to the local health officer.

3) Permits a local health officer to use the required reporting of birth conditions to conduct studies to investigate the causes of conditions and determine and evaluate measures designed to prevent their occurrence. Permits the granting of reported information to authorized program staff and persons with valid scientific interest in the data if the staff or other persons are engaged in demographic, epidemiological, or other similar studies related to health and who agree, in writing, to maintain confidentiality.

4) Permits a local health officer to issue a written order to reporting institutions within the local health jurisdiction that requires them to make their related records available to authorized local program staff; report selected information about birth conditions to the local public health program; or, implement a

hybrid of the two systems. Prohibits a local health officer from impeding or contradicting activities of the state-level BDMP in their jurisdiction.

5) Requires birth conditions reported in a local health jurisdiction to be at the direction and discretion of the local health officer, subject to adequate funding. Requires a local health jurisdiction to consider implementing the same reporting requirements and workflows currently used by the reporting institutions and to consider less costly alternative methods if current requirements and workflows would impose additional costs compared to the alternatives.

6) Permits a local health officer only to collect information if it is a unique demographic, diagnostic, or health data directly related to a birth condition, unless the patient or their parent or guardian gives consent to the reporting institution to collect additional data to report to the local health officer.

7) Permits a local health officer to require reporting institutions within the local health jurisdiction to report birth conditions, as needed, to assess and address the needs of the local health jurisdiction; to supplement the state BDMP in jurisdictions where it is conducted, if needed; or, for reporting of birth conditions in a local health jurisdiction where there is no state BDMP.

8) Prohibits genetic disease testing program funds to be used to support the provisions in this bill. Specifies that the provisions in this bill do not apply to the CDPH's BDMP or GSP.

9) Specifies that the state is not responsible for any aspect of birth condition monitoring and reporting conducted by locals.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> Achieving healthy communities is a multifaceted approach. Medical and public health professionals play a vital role in making sure our communities are healthy, protected, and have access to care. Whenever possible, we must expand resources to support their roles in achieving healthy communities. Making improvements to our health care needs and ensuring our communities are safe from environmental hazards entail evaluating the health data we collect and making sure we identify gaps. One way CDPH is doing so is by monitoring birth defects in the state through the BDMP. However, this program is restricted

to just ten counties. This bill expands on this program, specifically, by giving local health jurisdictions the ability to implement a local birth conditions reporting program should they choose to do so. This allows a local health jurisdiction to collect their own data and improve services for families facing health care challenges. It builds upon the work that CDPH is doing and allows all counties to have the option to do monitoring.

Birth defects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, every 4.5 minutes a baby is born with a condition that affects the structure or function of their body, affecting one in every 33 babies born in the United States each year. They are also the leading cause of infant deaths, accounting for one in five (20%) of all infant deaths. Birth defects can occur during any stage of pregnancy with most occurring in the first three months of pregnancy, when the organs of the baby are forming. However, some birth defects do occur later in pregnancy as tissues and organs continue to develop. While medical advancements have greatly improved health and survival, many of these conditions are lifelong and require lifelong care. Birth defects can vary from mild to severe, and health outcomes and life expectancy depend on which body part is involved and how it is affected.

Exposures and risk factors. CDPH's website states when discussing exposures and risk factors in regards to birth defects it means anything the fetus is exposed to, as well as anything that may alter conditions within the womb, which includes everything the mother may come into contact with during pregnancy. Because most structural development of the fetus occurs during early pregnancy, CDPH focuses on the "periconceptional" period—the month before and first three months after conception. Studies cannot always provide a definitive answer about whether a particular exposure or risk factor, or both, caused a birth defect. Instead, results are reported as changes in birth defects risk for exposed pregnancies compared to unexposed. The following are general guidelines BDMP uses:

- *Exposures* – anything that comes into direct contact with the mother or fetus;
- *Risk factors* – such as social or economic conditions, may provide clues that can help pinpoint causes;
- *Higher risks* – a doubling or more, suggests an association between the exposure and the condition in question. This may mean the studied exposure/risk factor contributes to the birth defect;
- *Decreased risks* – one-half or less, indicates a protective effect. The exposure appears to prevent the birth defect from occurring; and,
- *No change in risk* – implies that the exposure and the defect are not closely related.

Studies that are conducted in order to discover the role of exposures and risk factors on birth defects must validate biologically plausible pathways of exposure—meaning ways the mother could have been exposed. Proximity is not enough. If a pregnant woman lives near a source of environmental concern, for example, things like whether she could have inhaled, ingested or otherwise been exposed to harmful conditions must also be considered. The following exposures and risk factors may have some impact on a fetus if the mother was exposed during pregnancy: air pollution; alcohol; chemicals, pesticides, and solvents; diet and nutrition; drinking water; drugs; folic acid/vitamins; and, medications.

BDMP. According to CDPH's website, the California BDMP is a population-based registry that has been an active ascertainment registry since 1982 when the California State Legislature authorized it to collect data on birth defects, stillbirths, and miscarriages. BDMP currently monitors over 150,000 births in 10 counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Orange, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare)—approximately 30% of the births in California, representative of the state's population. BDMP registry data provide ongoing tracking (also called surveillance) to monitor rates and trends of select birth defects. The data also provides pregnancy outcome data for the pregnancy blood samples included in the California Biobank Program. BDMP's objectives are to: increase the quality and quantity of California-based birth defect data available for purposes of public health monitoring and investigator-led research; increase communication of birth defects information; and, monitor public health and safety concerns relating to birth defects.

Information is collected on specific congenital and inherited disorders to provide the public, researchers, and the medical community with accurate data on birth defects. BDMP sets procedures for identifying children with birth defects, reviews medical records, and links cases with state and national agencies. Data collection focuses on structural malformations including major heart defects, oral clefts, neural tube defects, hypospadias, abdominal wall defects, Down syndrome and other chromosomal defects. BDMP monitors the rates of birth defects by geographic and demographic attributes, and focuses on common birth defects with substantial public health impact. BDMP responds to inquiries from the public, and research and medical communities. It provides data for public health reports, needs assessments, and program evaluation, and also works to communicate relevant information and identify appropriate resources specifically for California families concerned about birth defects.

The author's office provided information stating that current law does not authorize local health jurisdictions to implement birth defects reporting in their

respective jurisdictions, and limits their reporting programs to infectious/communicable diseases and/or food- or vector-borne conditions. Likewise, some of the largest and most diverse counties (Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, and San Jose) are not represented in the statewide BDMP.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

County of Los Angeles (co-source)
March of Dimes (co-source)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Children Now
CleanEarthforKids.org
First 5 Association of California
Health Officers Association of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Los Angeles County (LAC) and the March of Dimes, as cosponsors, and other supporters of this bill state that monitoring birth anomalies can be an indispensable tool for local health programs to identify newborns and infants with select health conditions and connect them with necessary care (case finding); determine the best prevention strategies and allocate resources more effectively; highlight areas for further research, address care gaps or quality issues, and evaluate underperforming practices or products; and, respond to environmental or public health emergencies that may pose risks. For instance, if this authority were currently available in LAC, it could be utilized to monitor the effects of the recent fires on births in the coming years to identify possible impacts of exposure to after-fire toxicity in air, water, or soil. Likewise, LAC states it could track birth-related incidents of cerebral palsy, an area of particular concern to their Board of Supervisors. Finally, they could monitor the incidence of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) to ensure that families of infants diagnosed with SCD are enrolling in appropriate specialty care.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/5/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary,

Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Lackey, Ortega

Prepared by: Reyes Diaz / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 11:05:58

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1159
Author: Addis (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Pérez, Cortese, Menjivar, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-5, 1/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Student personal information

SOURCE: Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

DIGEST: This bill establishes, commencing July 1, 2027, the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act governing the collection, use, disclosure, retention, and protection of postsecondary student data by educational technology operators. It further modifies the K-12 Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act (KOPIPA) and the Early Learning Personal Information Protection Act (ELPIPA) to regulate the use of pupil data in artificial intelligence (AI) systems, applies their respective provisions to entities acting on behalf of an operator, and makes other changes related to protecting pupil information. It further creates a private right of action for specified violations of pupil and student privacy protection.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 1) revise the standards and institutional review process for operators' deidentification of student information, 2) require operators to apply deidentification measures consistent with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements, as determined by educational institutions, 3) clarify that the bill does not require educational institutions to review or approve an operator's deidentification practices, 4) revise permitted sales and disclosures by national assessment providers and nonprofit enrollment-data reporting entities, subject to contractual restrictions, 5) allow specified communications to students concerning course materials, payments, rentals, returns, and order fulfillment 6) and extend the prelitigation notice and cure periods to 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, which imposes certain requirements on operators of websites or online services directed to children under 13 years of age, and on operators of other websites or online services that have actual knowledge that they are collecting personal information online from a child under 13 years of age. (15 United States Code (USC) § 6501; 16 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 312)

2) Establishes FERPA, which protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. (20 USC § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99)

3) Establishes the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict the sale of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil Code (CIV) § 1798.100 et seq.)

4) Defines "personal information" under the CCPA as information that identifies, relates to, describes, is reasonably capable of being associated with, or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly, with a particular consumer or household. The CCPA provides a nonexclusive series of categories of information deemed to be personal information, including biometric information, geolocation data, and "sensitive personal information." (CIV § 1798.140(v)(1))

5) Establishes KOPIPA to restrict the use and disclosure of students' "covered information," which means personally identifiable information or materials, in any media or format that meets the definition. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 22584)

6) Prohibits, pursuant to KOPIPA, operators from knowingly engaging in targeted advertising, using information about students to create a profile about them except in furtherance of K-12 school purposes, selling students' information, or disclosing their information, except as provided. (BPC § 22584(b))

7) Requires an operator to delete a pupil's CCPA-excluded covered information under the operator's control if a parent, guardian, or adult pupil requests the deletion of the information if the pupil has not been enrolled in the school for 60 days or more. (BPC § 22584(d)(3))

This bill:

1) Expands the scope of KOPIPA to regulate the use of pupil data in AI systems by prohibiting operators from using covered information, including persistent unique identifiers, to train or develop AI systems unless the use is in furtherance of K–12 school purposes and for the use and benefit of the school and the teacher, pupil, or parent.

2) Expands the scope of ELPIPA to regulate the use of pupil data in AI systems by prohibiting operators from using covered information, including persistent unique identifiers, to train or develop AI systems unless the use is strictly in furtherance of preschool or prekindergarten purposes and for the use and benefit of the preschool or prekindergarten and the teacher, pupil, or parent.

3) Establishes, operative July 1, 2027, the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act to regulate the collection, use, disclosure, and protection of postsecondary education student data by educational technology operators, as defined. Specifically, it:

    a) Prohibits operators from knowingly engaging in targeted advertising based on student information, creating student profiles unrelated to higher education purposes, selling student information except in limited circumstances, making unauthorized disclosures of covered information, or using covered information to train or develop AI systems, as specified. The bill allows specified sales or disclosures by a national assessment provider for assessment, admissions, scholarships or financial aid, or other

educational purposes, and by a nonprofit enrollment data reporting entity for specified verification, reporting compliance, and higher education purposes. These transactions must be governed by a written contract restricting further sales, disclosure, and use of the information, as specified.

b) Specifies circumstances under which disclosures of covered information are not prohibited, including higher education purposes, research, legal compliance, security, contracted services providers, and the assessment and enrollment data reporting activities described, subject to certain conditions, as specified.

c) Requires operators to implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and data governance practices. Operators are to protect student information from unauthorized access or disclosure, comply with specified student and institutional requests to delete covered information, limit retention of covered information to the period reasonably necessary to fulfill its purposes, and maintain a written data retention policy that identifies retention and deletion timelines, as specified.

d) Specifies various exemptions and permitted uses of student Information, including the use of deidentified or aggregated information for product improvement and research, adaptive learning and customized instruction, and disclosures otherwise authorized by law, and communications to students regarding required or recommended course materials, payment deadlines, rental and return policies, refunds, returns, and order fulfillment, as specified.

e) Clarifies that this bill's provisions do not supersede specified federal student privacy and disability laws.

4) Creates a private right of action for specified violations of pupil and student privacy protections.

5) Expands the definition of "covered information" under KOPIPA and ELPIPA to include additional categories of information, including extracurricular activities, biometric or behavioral information, device identifiers, search activity, photographs, and voice recordings. This bill applies a similar definition under the Higher Education Student Information Act.

6) Expands the definition of "Operator" under KOPIPA and ELPIPA to include entities working on behalf of operators of websites, online services, applications, or online applications designed, marketed, and used for educational purposes, including providers of digital educational software and services. This bill applies a similar definition under the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act.

7) Adds the definition of various terms applicable to KOPIPA, ELPIPA, and the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act, including:

   a) "Deidentified information" to mean information that cannot reasonably identify, relate to, describe, be capable of being associated with, or be linked, directly or indirectly, to a particular individual or household if the operator that possesses the information does all of the following:

      i) Takes reasonable measures to ensure that the information cannot be associated with a particular individual or household.

      ii) Publicly commits to maintain and use the information in deidentified form and not to attempt to reidentify the information. The operator may attempt to reidentify the information solely for the purpose of determining whether its deidentification processes satisfy the criteria of this paragraph.

      iii) Contractually obligates any recipient of the information to meet the criteria described above in i) and ii) above of this analysis.

      iv) Applies deidentification measures consistent with those required of educational agencies and institutions under FERPA and implementing regulations, as determined by the preschool, prekindergarten, school, local educational agency (LEA), or higher education institution.

      v) Makes its deidentification processes available for review, by the preschool, prekindergarten, school, LEA or higher education institution that the operator serves before any use of deidentified data by the operator.

      vi) To the extent the preschool, prekindergarten, school, LEA, or higher education institution that the operator serves maintains a deidentification

policy or standard, applies deidentification measures in accordance with that policy or standard.

vii) If the preschool, prekindergarten, school, LEA, or higher education institution reviews the operator's deidentification processes, prohibits the operator from using, sharing, or retaining the information as deidentified information until the institution determines that the operator's process is sufficient under the applicable standards.

viii) Clarifies that a preschool, prekindergarten, school, LEA, or higher education institution is not required to review an operator's deidentification processes or approve an operator's retention or use of deidentified information.

b) "Operator" to mean the operator, or an entity working on behalf of the operator, of an internet website, online service, online application, or mobile application with actual knowledge that the site, service, or application is used for preschool, prekindergarten, K–12 school or higher educational purposes and was designed or marketed for preschool, prekindergarten, K–12 school or higher educational purposes, including a provider of digital educational software or services, including digital course books. "Operator" does not include the State Department of Education, a preschool, prekindergarten, a LEA, a school, or a higher education institution.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "The Student Online Personal Information Protection Act and the Early Learner Personal Information Protection Act were landmark pieces of legislation that created protections for student and early learner data. However, technological progress has outpaced the legal protections provided by these laws, leaving students and early learners vulnerable to irresponsible collection, usage, and disclosure of their data. Additionally, students in California's higher education institutions have no equivalent protections. AB 1159, the CA Learner Personal Information Protection Act, modernizes existing data protections in the education field and extends those protections to students in higher education, ensuring that all students can learn safely and securely in an increasingly digital world."

2) *Institutional oversight of deidentified information.* Existing federal law, including FERPA, governs educational institutions' handling of student education records and certain disclosures to third parties. FERPA primarily

applies to LEAs and institutions that receive funds under programs administered by the United States (U. S.) Department of Education. That includes K-12 schools, school districts, community colleges, the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), and many private colleges that participate in federal student aid programs. FERPA further permits educational institutions to disclose education records to contractors and service providers acting as school officials under certain conditions, while requiring institutions to maintain direct control over the use and maintenance of those records. This bill permits operators to use and share deidentified student information for specific purposes and places responsibility on operators to determine whether information has been sufficiently deidentified. Federal guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education regarding FERPA deidentification practices suggests that LEAs and institutions take an active role in evaluating whether information has been sufficiently deidentified and assessing the risk of reidentification.

Concerns have been raised regarding the extent to which educational institutions (LEA, school, prekindergarten, preschool, and higher education institutions) have oversight of operator deidentification practices, particularly when the underlying information originates from records shared by the institution. In response to these concerns, the amendments require an operator to apply measures consistent with FERPA deidentification requirements, as determined by the educational institution; make its process available for institutional review before using deidentified data; and, if the institution conducts a review, refrain from using, sharing, or retaining the information as deidentified until the institution determines the process is sufficient.

3) *Student privacy protections consistent across educational segments.* This bill expands existing K-12 and early learning student privacy laws while establishing a new higher education privacy framework. Although many provisions are substantially similar across the three acts, the bill creates separate statutory frameworks governing different educational sectors. Aligning the three privacy act frameworks may make compliance easier for operators that serve multiple educational sectors.

4) *Permitted disclosures and sales.* This bill generally prohibits the sale or disclosure of covered information but establishes certain exceptions. Recent amendments revise the exceptions for national assessment providers and nonprofit enrollment data reporting entities and require written contracts limiting further sales, disclosure, and use. This bill's provisions stating that it does not limit or supersede FERPA preserves applicable federal requirements,

and each disclosure of education records must still be supported by consent or an applicable FERPA exception.

5) *Private right of action.* This bill creates a private right of action for specified violations of its student privacy protections.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- This bill could result in additional, unknown cost pressures to the courts to adjudicate additional cases that are filed. The actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It typically costs about $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although the courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for the courts from the General Fund.

- The Chancellor's Office estimates minor, one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs for the community colleges to train staff on student rights under the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act. There could also be one-time General Fund workload costs of $12,000 to $23,000 for the Chancellor's Office to release guidance.

- The administrative costs to the University of California and California State University are expected to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

- The Department of Justice anticipates no significant fiscal impact as a result of this measure.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (source)
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Action
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Asian Solidarity Collective
Bright Light Strategies
CA Now
California Faculty Association

California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
California Nurses Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California School Employees Association
California State PTA
California Work and Family Coalition
Californians Together
Center for Public Interest Law/Children's Advocacy Institute/University of San Diego
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Common Sense Media
Consumer Action
Consumer Federation of California
Courage California
Dental Board of California
Equal Rights Advocates
Equality California
GSA Network
Indivisible CA State Strong
Kapor Center Advocacy
NextGen California
Oakland Privacy
Privacy Defense Alliance
Secure Justice
Students Deserve
Tech Equity
Tech Oversight California
The Children's Partnership
UnidosUS

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Association of College Stores
California Chamber of Commerce
Computer & Communications Industry Association
National Association of College Stores
TechNet

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-5, 1/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Johnson, Macedo, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Castillo, Dixon, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Lackey, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 12:57:46

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1198
Author: Haney (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-1, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-6, 1/29/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public works: prevailing wages

SOURCE: State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

DIGEST: This bill requires updated prevailing wage rates, as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), to apply to any public works contract that is awarded or for which notice to bidders is published after July 1, 2027, if the awarded value of the prime contract is $35 million or greater. Contracts for affordable housing development projects are exempt from this requirement, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26: 1) limit mid-project prevailing wage rate increases to any public works contract that is awarded or for which notice to bidders is published after July 1, 2027*, if the awarded value of the prime contract is $35 million or greater*; and 2) clarify, for affordable housing development projects, that the Director shall determine prevailing wage rate increases during a *semiannual period*.[1]

[1] For affordable housing developments, the Director's determination shall not be effective as to any contract for which notice to bidders has been published or as to any contract that has been awarded.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the DIR, under the control of an executive officer known as Director of Industrial Relations (Director), to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of California, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment. (Labor Code §50-64.5)

2) Requires that not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages be paid to all workers employed on a "public works" project costing over $1,000 dollars and imposes misdemeanor penalties for violations of this requirement. (Labor Code §1771)

3) Requires the body awarding any contract for public work, or otherwise undertaking any public work, to obtain the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work in the locality in which the public work is to be performed for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute the contract from the Director. (Labor Code §1773)

4) Requires the Director to determine the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the Director's determination to be final, except as specified. (Labor Code §1770)

5) Provides that in determining the prevailing wage rate, the Director shall ascertain and consider the applicable wage rates established by collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) and the rates that may have been predetermined for federal public works, within the locality and in the nearest labor market area. Where the rates do not constitute the rates actually prevailing in the locality, the Director shall obtain and consider further data from the labor organizations and employers or employer associations concerned, including the recognized collective bargaining representatives for the particular craft, classification, or type of work involved. The rate fixed for each craft, classification, or type of work shall be not less than the prevailing rate paid in the craft, classification, or type of work. (Labor Code §1773)

6) Provides that if the Director determines that the rate of prevailing wage for any craft, classification, or type of worker is the rate established by a CBA, the Director may adopt that rate by reference as provided for in the CBA and that

determination shall be effective for the life of the agreement or until the Director determines that another rate should be adopted. (Labor Code §1773)

7) Requires the Director to use the following methodology to determine the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which the public work is to be performed:

   a) The basic hourly wage rate being paid to a majority of workers engaged in the particular craft, classification, or type of work within the locality and in the nearest labor market area, if a majority of the workers are paid at a single rate. If no single rate is being paid to a majority of the workers, then the single rate being paid to the greatest number of workers, or modal rate, is prevailing. If a modal rate cannot be determined, then the Director shall establish an alternative rate by considering the appropriate CBAs, federal rates, rates in the nearest labor market area, or other data such as wage survey data.

   b) Other employer payments included in per diem wages pursuant to Labor Code §1773.1 and as included as part of the total hourly wage rate from which the basic hourly wage rate was derived. In the event the total hourly wage rate does not include any employer payments, the Director shall establish a prevailing employer payment rate, as specified.

   c) The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be those rates specified in the CBA when the basic hourly rate is based on a CBA rate. In the event the basic hourly rate is not based on a CBA, the rate for holidays and overtime work, if any, included with the prevailing basic hourly rate of pay shall be prevailing. (Labor Code §1773.9)

8) Provides that if the Director determines that the general prevailing rate of per diem wages is the rate established by a CBA, and that the CBA contains definite and predetermined changes during its term that will affect the rate adopted, the Director shall incorporate those changes into the determination. Predetermined changes that are rescinded prior to their effective date shall not be enforced. (Labor Code §1773.9)

9) Provides that if during any quarterly period the Director determines that there has been a change in any prevailing rate of per diem wages in any locality he or she shall make such change available to the awarding body and his or her determination shall be final. Such determination by the Director shall not be

effective as to any contract for which the notice to bidders has been published. (Labor Code §1773.6)

This bill:

1) Requires, if during any semiannual period the Director determines there has been a change in any prevailing rate of per diem wages, the Director to make such change available to the awarding body. The Director's determination shall be final, except as specified.

2) Provides that the Director's determination of a change in the prevailing wage shall only apply on its effective date to any contract that is awarded or for which notice to bidders is published after July 1, 2027, if the awarded value of the prime contract is $35 million or greater.

3) Exempts from the requirement in 2) contracts for a housing development project if 100 percent of units, excluding managers' units, are restricted by deed, regulatory restrictions contained in an agreement with a governmental agency, or other recorded document as affordable housing for persons and families of low or moderate income, as specified, or subject to an agreement that provides housing subsidies for affordable housing for persons and families of low or moderate income, as specified.

4) Provides that for contracts for a housing development project, described in 3), the Director's determination of a change in the prevailing wage *shall not be effective* as to any contract for which notice to bidders has been published or as to any contract that has been awarded.

5) Authorizes any contractor, awarding body, or representative of any craft, classification, or type of work affected by a change in rates on a particular contract to, within 20 days after publication of the new determination, file with the Director a verified petition to review the determination of that rate upon the ground that it has not been determined in accordance with (Labor Code §1773). Within two days after the filing of the petition, a copy of that petition shall be filed with the awarding body. The petition shall set forth the facts upon which it is based.

6) Requires the Director, or the Director's authorized representative, to, upon notice to the petitioner, the awarding body, and other persons the Director deems proper, including the recognized collective bargaining representatives for

the particular crafts, classifications, or types of work involved, initiate an investigation or hold a hearing.

7) Requires the Director, within 20 days after the filing of a petition, or within a longer period as agreed upon by the Director, awarding body, and all interested parties, to make a final determination and transmit that determination in writing to the awarding body and to the interested parties.

8) States that a determination by the Director is effective 10 days after its issuance. The Director shall include an issue date on the determination. The determination shall remain in effect until it is modified, rescinded, or superseded by the Director.

9) Provides that 1) through 8) shall become operative on July 1, 2027.

Background

Prevailing Wages: The prevailing wage rate is the basic hourly rate paid on public works projects to a majority of workers engaged in a particular craft, classification, or type of work within the locality and in the nearest labor market area. Prevailing wage laws ensure that the ability to receive a public works contract is not based on paying lower wages than a competitor. The Director of DIR has the sole responsibility to establish prevailing wage rates for all classifications of workers. In determining the rates, the Director ascertains and considers the applicable wage rates contained in CBAs and the rates that have been predetermined for federal public works.

The Director issues wage determinations semiannually on February 22 and August 22. Determinations become effective 10 days after their issue date- on March 3rd in leap years and March 4th in non-leap years and September 1st.

Predetermined Wage Increases: Existing law states that if the Director determines that there has been a change in the prevailing wage, such change shall be made available to an awarding body. This notification is for informational purposes and *does not require* an awarding body to update wages on contracts for which the notice to bidders has been published or for ongoing projects. However, there is the potential for prevailing wage rates to change mid-project if the wage determination in effect at the time of bidding includes a predetermined increase.

Each prevailing wage determination contains an expiration date and either one or two asterisks to indicate whether there is a predetermined change. A double asterisk following the determination's expiration date indicates a predetermined

change in the prevailing wage rate. If work on a project extends past the expiration date, the new rates must be paid and should be incorporated into contracts at the start of the project. Predetermined increases typically occur when the prevailing wage rate is based on a CBA and the CBA includes a scheduled pay increase. Predetermined increases are available on DIR's website. A single asterisk following the determination's expiration date indicates that the prevailing wage rate remains in effect for the entirety of the project.

Comments

This bill requires the Director's determination of a change in the prevailing wage rate to apply on its effective date to any public works contract that is awarded or for which notice to bidders is published after July 1, 2027. Put simply, this bill requires mid-project prevailing wage increases. Additionally, this bill exempts contracts for an affordable housing development project, as specified, and establishes a mechanism to review the Director's determination.

The author argues that if a project extends beyond scheduled wage increases, or if no increases were set by the wage determination in effect at the time of bidding, workers will receive outdated wages that do not reflect current labor standards. Furthermore, the author argues that allowing contractors to pay outdated wage rates for the duration of a project creates an uneven playing field for contractors who update wages to reflect current prevailing wage determinations or negotiated labor agreements.

This bill contains nearly identical language to AB 1140 (Daly, 2013), which was vetoed by Governor Brown, and AB 2182[2] (Haney, 2024), which was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Governor Brown's veto message stated the following:

> "This measure requires contractors on public works projects to increase workers' pay any time the state updates its prevailing wage rates. This is intended to address the circumstance where a non-union contractor is not

[2] AB 2182 would have applied mid-project prevailing wage increases to any contract for which notice to bidders was published after July 1, 2026, and that met all of the following requirements:

- The contract is not for the development of housing.
- The contract is subject to public works law, as specified.
- The awarded value of the prime contract is $35 million or greater.
- The contract is not awarded by the state or a state agency, nor is the contract awarded in furtherance of a project undertaken by the state. "State" is inclusive of the Legislature, the Judicial Council, the California State University, and the University of California.

> required to adjust wages mid-project but a union contractor is subject to such adjustments pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement.
>
> In most cases, projects are bid, awarded and completed in a relatively short period of time and this measure would have little, if any impact. Larger, long term projects are the more likely setting for the union/non-union wage differential this bill seeks to address. Unfortunately, introducing such wage adjustments as proposed by this measure is likely to lead to uncertainty in the cost of public works projects and increase costs ultimately borne by the taxpayers.
>
> Finally, many collective bargaining agreements already address this limited circumstance by allowing wage rates to remain at the level determined by the state at the time of the bid, award or start of the contract. Given this, I do not find a statutory change warranted to address the issue raised by this measure."

Governor Newsom's veto message stated the following:

> "This bill would require that any change in prevailing wage rates apply to existing contracts on certain public works projects…
>
> While I am a steadfast supporter of prevailing wage law, the adjustments proposed by this measure would likely lead to uncertainty in the cost of public works projects, potentially creating significant cost pressures on the state budget.
>
> In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure."

The questions raised in both veto messages remain relevant today. Who will bear the costs related to increases in wage rates mid-project? What effect will this have on future bids for public works projects? However, the committee also asks, is it fair to pay non-union workers employed on lengthy public works projects an outdated prevailing wage rate? Would applying mid-project wage rate increases maintain a level playing field?

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2182 (Haney, 2024) would have, among other things, required a change in the prevailing rate of per diem wages, as determined by the Director, to apply to any public works contract for which notice to bidders is published after July 1, 2026, and that meets specified criteria. AB 1198 is substantially similar to AB 2182. The bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

AB 1140 (Daly, 2013) would have required a change in the prevailing rate of per diem wages, as determined by the Director, to apply to any public works contract that is awarded or for which notice to bidders is published on or after January 1, 2014. AB 1198 is nearly identical to AB 1140. The bill was vetoed by Governor Brown.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- DIR indicates that it would incur first-year costs of $5.75 million to $6 million, and $5.4 million to $5.7 million annually thereafter, to implement the provisions of the bill (State Public Works Enforcement Fund).

- To the extent that state agencies execute a public works project, the bill would result in increased project costs. The magnitude is unknown, but potentially significant (General Fund and special fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

State Building and Construction Trades Council of California (Source)
California Association of Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Legislative Conference of Plumbing, Heating & Piping Industry
California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers
California State Association of Electrical Workers
California State Pipe Trades Council
Finishing Contractors Association of Southern California
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 16
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 36
National Electrical Contractors Association
Northern California Allied Trades
Northern California Floor Covering Association

Southern California Association of Scaffold Contractors
Southern California Contractors Association
Southern California Glass Management Association
Teamsters California
United Contractors
Wall and Ceiling Alliance
Western Painting and Coating Contractors Association
Western States Council Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation
Western Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

American Society of Civil Engineers Region 9
Associated General Contractors of California
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Association of School Business Officials
California Solar & Storage Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
California Transit Association
Calleguas Municipal Water District
City of Thousand Oaks
City of Roseville
League of California Cities
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Resource Conservation District of Tehama County
Rural County Representatives of California
San Bernardino County
Urban Counties of California
Western Electrical Contractors Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The source of the measure, the California Building and Construction Trades, argues:

"[AB 1198] is crucial to ensuring that all contractors operate on a level playing field and that workers receive fair wages as determined by collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) which determine the prevailing wage.

In California contract law, the asterisk (*) and double asterisk (**) provisions in prevailing wage determinations indicate that future wage increases are tied to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) but may not be immediately reflected in the contract at the time of bidding. The single asterisk (*) signifies that wage rates

are subject to periodic adjustments based on scheduled increases in the CBA, while the double asterisk (**) denotes that the wage determination itself is entirely based on an underlying CBA, including any future wage escalations. However, some non-union contractors exploit this system by bidding on public works projects using the lower, pre-adjustment wage rates and then refuse to honor subsequent increases once the contract is awarded. This creates an unfair advantage over responsible contractors who comply with CBA-mandated wage adjustments, undermining fair competition and leading to wage suppression for workers.

AB 1198 seeks to close this loophole by ensuring that all contractors adhere to post-award wage adjustments, reinforcing fair labor practices in public works projects. AB 1198 closes this loophole by requiring that prevailing wages be adjusted in accordance with CBAs that take effect after a contract is awarded. This will ensure that all contractors adhere to the same wage obligations, preventing unfair cost-cutting tactics that harm both workers and law-abiding businesses. Furthermore, this bill reinforces California's commitment to fair labor standards and the protection of skilled workers who rely on negotiated wage increases to keep up with the cost of living."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Western Electrical Contractors Association opposes the measure, arguing:

"AB 1198 would fundamentally change how prevailing wage determinations apply to public

works contracts by requiring that any change in a prevailing wage rate during a semiannual period be applied to contracts awarded or bid after July 1, 2027. While presented as an administrative update, the fiscal and practical consequences are substantial."

The Rural County Representatives of California, the California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities, and the California Special Districts Association, among others, oppose the measure unless amended, arguing:

"Under current law, when a project is first advertised for bid, the public agency (as well as the contractor) can go to a webpage managed by DIR to see what the prevailing wage rates are. These wage rates generally include those upcoming increases which will occur during the duration of the project. Contractors incorporate those known labor costs into their bids, allowing public agencies to accurately evaluate proposals, establish project budgets, secure financing, and award contracts with certainty. We are concerned that contracting and put projects in jeopardy.

For projects funded through fixed appropriations, grants, bond proceeds, voter-approved local revenues, or adopted local budgets, unexpected labor cost increases may require agencies to reduce project scope, delay construction, or cancel projects altogether. It would be challenging to predict how many future wage determinations could occur during the project period and adequately plan for cost increases, which may put potential projects at risk…

By introducing additional cost uncertainty into public works contracting, the bill will increase overall project costs and further challenge the affordability of critical infrastructure investments for state and local governments."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-6, 1/29/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Castillo, Dixon, Flora, Gipson, Hadwick, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia

Prepared by: Emma Bruce / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/26/26 9:12:15

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1307
Author: Ávila Farías (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-4, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program

SOURCE: Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas

DIGEST: This bill revises and recasts the statutory framework for the Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program (Mexico Dentists Program) and updates various requirements of the existing pilot program relating to temporary state licensure of licensed dentists from Mexico who work for a federally qualified health facility that has at least one health professional shortage area or dental professional shortage area within its service area in California.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 eliminate Mexico Dentists Program evaluation requirements; update orientation program subjects and specify that the subjects must be taught by an instructor affiliated with a California Dental School accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation; authorize the Dental Board of California (DBC) to terminate a license if a participant is denied a visa; decrease the license fee; update license timeframes; impose a new requirement for program participants to pass the ADEX Dental Examination and; state Legislative intent that DBC implement the Mexico Dentists Program within six months of receiving

philanthropic funds of $200K or more and that DBC administer the program without adopting regulations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the Dental Practice Act (Act). (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 1600 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Dental Board of California (DBC or Board) within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to administer and enforce the Dental Practice Act (Act). (BPC § 1601.1)

3) Establishes the Mexico Dentists Program which requires the Board to issue a three-year non-renewable permit to practice dentistry to no more than 30 dentists from Mexico who meet specified criteria. (BPC § 1645.4)

4) Requires dentists in the pilot program to meet specified criteria to qualify for participation. (BPC § 1645.4(e))

5) Limits employment of dentists in the Mexico Dentists Program to nonprofit community health centers. (BPC § 1645.4(f))

6) Requires dentists in the Mexico Dentists Program to apply for a three-year visa and Social Security number (SSN) within 14 days of receiving a permit, provide the SSN within 10 days of obtaining it, and prohibits participants from engaging in the practice of dentistry until these are met. (BPC § 1645.4(i))

7) Provides that all applicable employment benefits, salary, and policies provided by nonprofit community health centers to their current employees shall be provided to medical and dental practitioners from Mexico participating in the Mexico Dentists Program and that nonprofit community health centers must provide malpractice insurance coverage. (BPC § 1645.4(j))

8) Requires an evaluation of the program to commence 12 months after implementation, performed by a California dental school or independent consultant, and requires the evaluation to include specified issues, e.g. quality of care and impact on cultural and linguistic services. (BPC § 1645.4(k))

9) Requires costs for administering the Mexico Dentists Program to be secured from philanthropic entities. (BPC § 1645.4(l))

10) Requires Mexico Dentists Program applicants to work with the governments of Mexico and the United States in order to obtain the necessary three-year visa required for program participation. (BPC § 1645.4(m))

Background

Licensed Dentists in California. To obtain a dental license in California, applicants to the Dental Board are required to: furnish satisfactory evidence of having graduated from a board-approved dental college; successfully pass a written license examination (National Board of Dental Examination of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations); successfully take an examination in California Law and Ethics; successfully pass a practical exam of dental skills and diagnosis-treatment planning; submit fingerprints for the purposed of conducting a background check; and furnish evidence of liability insurance for any injuries sustained as a result of the applicant's taking of the practical licensure examination, among other requirements.

Out-of-country unlicensed applicants may be issued a license to practice in California if they have been issued a diploma from a foreign dental school accredited by a body that has a reciprocal accreditation agreement with any commission or accreditation organization whose findings are accepted by the board so long as the applicant has been issued a degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine or Doctor of Dental Surgery and provides evidence of completion of the full number of academic years of undergraduate courses required for graduation and that the applicant has been issued a dental diploma or degree to the Board (BPC § 1628).

Additionally, if an out of country applicant holds a valid and unrestricted license from another U.S. state or territory, and meets the clinical practice requirements, or can secure a two-year full-time contract with an approved dental school or community/public clinic, they may qualify for licensure through the Licensure by Credential pathway (BPC § 1635.5).

This bill builds upon the existing pathway to licensure in California for a very limited number of currently licensed dentists from Mexico to allow these licensed professionals to serve limited term tenures in critically underserved areas where cultural competency is severely needed.

Licensed Physicians and Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program. The Mexico Pilot Program, established by AB 1045 (Firebaugh, Chapter 1157, Statutes of 2002),

was designed to bring licensed physicians and dentists from Mexico with rural experience, who speak the language, understand the culture, and know how to apply this knowledge in serving the large Latino communities in rural areas who have limited or no access to primary health care services. AB 1045 authorized up to 30 licensed physicians specializing in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology and up to 30 licensed dentists from Mexico to practice medicine or dentistry in California for up to three years, and required the individuals to meet certain requirements related to training and education. Proponents of the measure were concerned about addressing primary care physician and dentist shortages while maintaining a high quality of care. The bill specified that any funding necessary for the implementation of the Mexico Pilot Program, including the evaluation and oversight functions, was to be secured from nonprofit philanthropic entities and further stated that implementation of the program could not move forward unless appropriate funding was secured from nonprofit philanthropic entities.

The Medical Board of California (MBC) received the necessary philanthropic funding in 2018 to initiate the program and began taking the necessary steps for implementation. As of April 2019, MBC began accepting applications for the Mexico Pilot Program. MBC received the required funding commitments necessary for program implementation in December 2020. In August 2022, the Center for Reducing Health Disparities (CRHD) at the University of California, Davis released its first annual progress report of the Mexico Pilot Program.

In 2024, AB 2860 (Garcia, Chapter 246) created two distinct programs, the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program (Mexico Physicians Program) in the Medical Practice Act, and the Mexico Dentists Program in the Dental Practice Act, and made various updates and conforming changes.

Despite the statutory framework for the Mexico Dentists Program being in existence for over 20 years, DBC has not implemented a program. The Mexico Physicians Program was implemented after appropriate funding was secured and appears successful in meeting the needs of medical patients in areas where cultural competency is a factor in health care outcomes, as described by an independent evaluation conducted by the University of Davis School of Medicine Center for the Study of Health Disparities.

Comments

The August 21 amendments create new impediments to implementation of the Mexico Dentists Program, including requiring participating dentists to pass the

American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) examination and authorizing DBC to terminate a license if a visa is denied.

Participants in this program are not dental students seeking to demonstrate competency for initial entry into the profession; they are dentists who have already completed their dental education and satisfied the requirements to become licensed dentists in Mexico. The program was specifically structured to provide an alternative, closely regulated pathway for a limited number of these licensed dentists to practice in California, subject to additional education, orientation, supervision, practice-setting, and other program-specific requirements intended to ensure competency and patient protection.

Requiring these dentists to additionally pass ADEX effectively overlays an initial-licensure examination requirement onto a program created to establish an alternative pathway for dentists already licensed in Mexico. The requirement creates additional costs, logistical barriers, and potential delays for prospective participants and may further impede implementation of the program.

California law provides a separate licensure-by-credential pathway under which an eligible dentist holding an active and unrestricted license in another state may obtain a California license without passing ADEX, provided the dentist satisfies specified practice experience and other requirements. California therefore does not require passage of ADEX in every instance in which an already-licensed dentist seeks authority to practice in this state; qualifying out-of-state licensees may instead demonstrate eligibility through their licensure, practice experience, and satisfaction of the other requirements for licensure by credential. By contrast, AB 1307 would require participants in this narrowly tailored workforce program to pass ADEX notwithstanding their existing professional licensure in Mexico and the additional competency, education, oversight, and practice restrictions imposed by the program itself.

The August 21 amendments also authorize DBC to terminate a program participant's license if the participant is denied a visa. This provision raises separate concerns because it ties continued eligibility for a state professional license to a federal immigration determination that does not necessarily reflect the dentist's professional qualifications, competency, or ability to practice safely.

The experience of the corresponding Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program is instructive. MBC previously reported to the Legislature that physician applicants encountered difficulty obtaining the visa necessary to participate in the program because they had not yet been issued their California license. In response, the Legislature established a process under which MBC may issue a program license

to an otherwise qualified applicant before the applicant obtains the necessary visa and Social Security number. The physician must then promptly seek the appropriate visa and may not begin practicing until the applicable federal immigration requirements have been satisfied. The statutory framework in the Medical Practice Act does not, however, make an initial visa denial an independent basis for terminating the physician's professional license.

This sequencing recognizes the practical relationship between professional licensure and federal immigration authorization. A visa determination may depend upon the visa classification sought, documentation presented, the individual's employment circumstances, or changes in federal immigration requirements or policy. A participant may need to pursue a different or corrected immigration pathway without any corresponding change in the individual's professional qualifications. Treating a visa denial as grounds for terminating a professional license conflates two distinct governmental determinations: whether an individual is professionally qualified to practice dentistry, which is within DBC's regulatory jurisdiction, and whether that individual is authorized to enter or remain in the United States for that employment, which is determined under federal immigration law.

This bill now authorizes DBC to terminate the license of a dentist who has otherwise satisfied the state's professional and program-specific requirements based on an immigration determination that may be unrelated to the dentist's clinical qualifications, and that may be subject to correction or reconsideration. Notably, the bill does not provide a subsequent process for a participant to appeal or otherwise challenge the termination, or address circumstances in which a visa denial is subsequently reconsidered, corrected, or reversed.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The DBC estimated a one-time cost of $300,000 to contract with a vendor to conduct the required program evaluation for the prior version of the bill. The Board also noted it will experience a one-time workload impact on the prior version of the bill to promulgate regulations, as well as ongoing workload to process applications and issue licenses. The Senate Appropriations Committee noted that although this bill will create a non-absorbable fiscal impact to implement and regulate the program, all costs will be covered by donations from philanthropic foundations. Workload will not begin until all required funding is received, and the bill becomes operative six months after these funds are secured. DBC will establish a new, dedicated account specifically for the Mexico Pilot

Program to track all program-related revenues (including licensing fees) and expenditures.

The Office of Information Services (OIS) estimates costs of $72,000 to create a new license type in the BreEZe system. OIS notes these costs will also be paid for by philanthropic funds.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received for the current version of this bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-4, 6/2/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Sanchez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gallagher, McKinnor, Patterson

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. /
8/24/26 13:36:37

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1331
Author: Elhawary (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/25/25
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-2, 7/15/25
AYES: Umberg, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-15, 6/5/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Workplace surveillance

SOURCE: California Federation of Labor Unions

DIGEST: This bill prohibits an employer, both public and private, from using a workplace surveillance tool to monitor or surveil employees in a bathroom located in the workplace.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 1) strike previous prohibitions on the use of workplace surveillance tools to monitor employees in locker rooms, changing areas, and lactation spaces but retains the limitations on the use these tools in bathrooms; 2) permit an employee to bring a workplace surveillance tool into a bathroom as long as the tool meets specified criteria; 3) strike anti-retaliation provisions; and 4) add provisions granting a petitioner, in any civil action brought

for alleged violations, the right to seek appropriate temporary or preliminary injunctive relief, including punitive damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that the "right to privacy is a personal and fundamental right protected by Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of California and by the United States Constitution and that all individuals have a right of privacy in information pertaining to them." Further states these findings of the Legislature:

    a) The right to privacy is being threatened by the indiscriminate collection, maintenance, and dissemination of personal information and the lack of effective laws and legal remedies.
    b) The increasing use of computers and other sophisticated information technology has greatly magnified the potential risk to individual privacy that can occur from the maintenance of personal information.
    c) In order to protect the privacy of individuals, it is necessary that the maintenance and dissemination of personal information be subject to strict limits. (Civil Code §1798.1)

2) States that advances in science and technology have led to the development of new devices and techniques for the purpose of eavesdropping upon private communications and that the invasion of privacy resulting from the continual and increasing use of such devices and techniques has created a serious threat to the free exercise of personal liberties that cannot be tolerated in a free and civilized society. (Penal Code §630)

3) Prohibits a person from intentionally, and without the consent of all parties to a confidential communication, using an electronic amplifying or recording device to eavesdrop upon or record the confidential communication. For purposes of these provisions, defines a "person" to mean an individual, business association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity. (Penal Code §632)

4) Establishes the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict the sale of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these

rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil Code §1798.100 et seq.)

5) Establishes the Consumer Privacy Rights Act (CPRA), which amends the CCPA and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency (PPA), which is charged with implementing these privacy laws, promulgating regulations, and carrying out enforcement actions. (Civil Code §1798.100 et seq.; Proposition 24 (2020))

6) Establishes within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), various entities including the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) under the direction of the Labor Commissioner (LC), and empowers the LC with ensuring a just day's pay in every workplace and promotes economic justice through robust enforcement of labor laws. (Labor Code §79-107)

7) Prohibits an employer from causing an audio or video recording to be made of an employee in a restroom, locker room, or room designated by an employer for changing clothes, unless authorized by court order. No recording made in violation of this prohibition may be used by an employer for any purpose. A violation of this section constitutes an infraction. (Labor Code §435)

8) Authorizes, until January 1, 2029, a public prosecutor to prosecute an action, either civil or criminal, for a violation of certain provisions of the labor code or to enforce those provisions independently. (Labor Code §181)

This bill:

1) Defines, among other terms, the following:

   a) "Employer" means a person who directly or indirectly, or through an agent or any other person, employs or exercises control over the wages, hours, or working conditions of any person.
      i) "Employer" includes all branches of state government, or the several cities, counties, cities and counties, and municipalities thereof, or any other political subdivision of the state, or a school district, or any special district, or any authority, commission, or board or any other agency or instrumentality thereof.
      ii) "Employer" includes a labor contractor of a person defined as an employer under (i) above and any entity or individual that contracts with the labor contractor for labor or services, including, but not limited to, a "client employer" under Labor Code Section 2810.3 or an individual or

business entity that contracts for property services under Labor Code Section 238.5.

iii) "Employer" includes a farm labor contractor, as defined in Labor Code Section 1682, or foreign labor contractor, as defined in Section 9998.1 of the Business and Professions Code.

b) "Workplace surveillance tool" means a system, application, instrument, or device that collects or facilitates the collection of employee data, activities, communications, actions, biometrics, or behaviors by means other than direct observation by a person, including, but not limited to, video or audio surveillance, continuous incremental time-tracking tools, geolocation, electromagnetic tracking, photoelectronic tracking, a photo-optical system, or other means. "Workplace surveillance tool" does not include smoke or carbon monoxide detectors or weapon detection systems that automatically screen a person's body.

2) Prohibits an employer, unless directed by a court order, from using a workplace surveillance tool to monitor or surveil employees in a bathroom located in the workplace.

3) Grants employees the right to leave behind workplace surveillance tools that are on their person or in their possession when entering a bathroom.

4) Specifies that (3) above does not apply, and therefore a worker does not have the right to leave behind workplace surveillance tools that are on their person or possession, if the employee is required to remain available during meal or rest periods pursuant to federal or existing state law.

5) Notwithstanding the specified prohibitions, authorizes an employer to check workplace surveillance tools for the one-time entry and exit of bathrooms in the workplace.

6) Specifies that an employer is not in violation of the bill's prohibitions in any of the following circumstances:

a) An employee brings a workplace surveillance tool into a bathroom in the workplace because it is required to access a locked or secured area.
b) An employee voluntarily chooses to bring a workplace surveillance tool into a bathroom in the workplace.

c) An employee brings a workplace surveillance tool, including a badge or personal alarm system, into a bathroom in the workplace because the employer has a policy that requires workplace surveillance tools to be in the employee's possession while on work premises for identification or safety purposes, if the workplace surveillance tool meets both of the following conditions:
   i) Does not detect or record audio or video.
   ii) Is not artificial intelligence enabled.

7) Authorizes the Labor Commissioner to enforce these provisions, including investigating an alleged violation, and ordering appropriate temporary relief to mitigate a violation or maintain the status quo pending the completion of a full investigation or hearing through the procedures set forth under existing law, as specified, including issuing a citation against an employer who violates these provisions and filing a civil action.
   a) If a citation is issued, specifies that the procedures for issuing, contesting, and enforcing judgments for citations and civil penalties issued by the LC shall be the same as those set forth in existing law, as specified.

8) Authorizes these provisions to also be enforced by a public prosecutor, as specified.

9) In any civil action brought, authorizes the petitioner to seek appropriate temporary or preliminary injunctive relief, including punitive damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

10) Specifies that in addition to any other remedy, an employer who violates these provisions shall be subject to a penalty of $500 for each violation.

11) Provides that an action may be brought in the superior court in any county in which the violation in question is alleged to have occurred or in which the employer transacts business.

12) Provides that the above provisions are not intended to limit any other state or local law, as specified, that provides equal or greater protection to employees.

13) Specifies that the above provisions are severable and if any provision is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect.

14) Specifies that these provisions do not prohibit any employer from using workplace surveillance tools as required by federal law or existing state law nor do they authorize an employer to use these as prohibited by federal law or existing state law.

15) Specifies that these provisions do not prohibit the use of a workplace surveillance tool by an employer relating to either of the following:

    a) The development of an aircraft for use in the national airspace.
    b) The development of products or services for national security, military, space, or defense purposes.

16) For purposes of (15) above, specifies that these provisions apply only to the operations covered by a federal statute, federal regulation, or binding federal contract where the use of a workplace surveillance tool is reasonably necessary to comply with the federal statute, regulation, or the binding federal contract.

17) Specifies that this bill's provisions do not apply to a law enforcement agency that includes any employee who is a peace officer, as specified, when it acts as a law enforcement agency or as the employer of its own employees.

    a) For purposes of this provision, specifies that a law enforcement agency is not to be deemed the employer of any employees who are not directly employed by the law enforcement agency.

18) Finds and declares that the provisions of the bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair, therefore, section 1 applies to all cities, including charter cities.

Background

Need for this bill? According to the author: "As technology's capabilities have increased, employer surveillance of workers has increased. Recent reports from ExpressVPN found that close to 80% of employers use monitoring software to track employee performance. With employer surveillance on the rise, workers have limited access to spaces in their workplace, that are not under constant surveillance. Employers use workplace surveillance to track, monitor, manage, and prevent workers from advocating for their rights. The new surveillance state at the workplace has proven to increase psychological distress, stress, and lower job satisfaction among workers."

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1883 (Bryan, 2026) would regulate the use of workplace surveillance tools by both public and private employers. Specifically, the bill would, with certain exceptions, prohibit an employer from using a workplace surveillance tool that uses artificial intelligence to, among other things, collect neural data or recognize an individual's emotional state. AB 1883 is pending on the Senate Floor.

SB 947 (McNerney, 2026) would, among other things, prohibit an employer from using an ADS to perform certain actions and regulates allowable ADS uses. SB 947 is pending on the Assembly Floor.

SB 951 (Reyes, 2026) would, among other things, establish the California Worker Technological Displacement Act requiring a covered employer to provide advance notice when artificial intelligence or other automated technology causes significant workforce disruption. SB 947 is pending on the Assembly Floor.

[NOTE: Please see the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee analysis on this bill for more background information and information on more prior and related legislation.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- This bill would result in costs to the State as a direct employer to revise policies and ensure the use of any existing tools comply with its requirements (General Fund or special fund). The magnitude of such costs is unknown, and would be driven by the use of workplace surveillance tools across the State's roughly 200 departments and agencies.

- The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) indicates that it would incur first-year costs of $1.23 million, and $1.67 million annually thereafter, to enforce the provisions of the bill. (Labor Enforcement and Compliance Fund).

- By authorizing public prosecution to enforce worker privacy rights, this bill could result in potentially significant cost pressures to the courts; the magnitude is unknown (Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF)). The specific number of new actions that could be filed under the bill also is unknown; however, it generally costs about $10,500 to operate a courtroom for an eight-hour day. Courts are not funded on the basis of workload, and increased pressure on TCTF may create a

need for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The enacted 2025-26 budget includes $38 million in ongoing support from the General Fund to continue to backfill TCTF for revenue declines.

- This bill could result in increased penalty revenue to the State; the magnitude is unknown, but probably minor.

*Staff notes that the fiscal impacts noted above were provided for a previous version of this bill and do not reflect the amendments recently taken.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Federation of Labor Unions (Source)
Air Line Pilots Association, International
AFSCME California
Association of Flight Attendants - CWA
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Civil Liberties Advocacy
California Coalition for Worker Power
California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union
California Conference of Machinists
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Federation of Teachers AFL-CIO
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Nurses Association
California Professional Firefighters
California School Employees Association
California State Legislative Board of the SMART - Transportation Division
California State University Employees Union
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
Center for Democracy and Technology
Center for Inclusive Change
Center on Policy Initiatives
Church State Council
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, San Diego County Chapter
Communications Workers of America, District 9
Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy and Services
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumer Federation of California
Engineers and Scientists of California, IFPTE Local 20, AFL-CIO

Inland Empire Labor Council
International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600, IATSE
International Lawyers Assisting Workers Network
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
Los Angeles County Democratic Party
National Employment Law Project
National Union of Healthcare Workers
Northern CA District Council of the Int. Longshore and Warehouse Union
Oakland Privacy
Omidyar Network
Pillars of the Community
PowerSwitch Action
Rise Economy
San Diego Black Workers Center
Secure Justice
SEIU California State Council
Surveillance Resistance Lab
Teamsters California
TechEquity Action
The Center for AI and Digital Policy
The Workers Lab
Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
UNITE HERE! International Union, AFL-CIO
UNITE HERE! Local 11
United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council
Utility Workers Union of America
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Workers' Algorithm Observatory
Working Partnerships USA
Worksafe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Acclamation Insurance Management Services
ADT Security Services
Aerospace and Defense Alliance of California
Agricultural Council of California
Allied Managed Care
American Petroleum and Convenience Store Association
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Anaheim Chamber of Commerce

Associated General Contractors of California
Associated General Contractors – San Diego Chapter
Association of California Healthcare Districts
Association of California School Administrators
Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriff's
Brea Chamber of Commerce
CalBroadband
Calforests
California Alarm Association
California Alliance of Family Owned Businesses
California Apartment Association
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
California Association of Licensed Security Agencies, Guards & Associates
California Association of Recreation and Park Districts
California Association of School Business Officials
California Association of Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Attractions and Parks Association
California Automatic Vendors Council
California Bankers Association
California Beer and Beverage Distributors
California Cardroom Alliance
California Chamber of Commerce
California Cities for Self-reliance Joint Powers Authority
California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
California Credit Union League
California Farm Bureau
California Fitness Alliance
California Fraternal Order of Police
California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
California Gaming Association
California Grocers Association
California Hospital Association
California Hotel & Lodging Association
California Landscape Contractors Association
California League of Food Producers
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
California Moving and Storage Association
California Municipal Utilities Association

California Pawnbrokers Association
California Pest Management Association
California Restaurant Association
California Retailers Association
California School Boards Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
California State Council of SHRM
California Statewide Law Enforcement Association
California Travel Association
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
City of Concord
City of Orinda
Coalition of Small and Disabled Veteran Businesses
Colusa County Chamber of Commerce
Communities 4 California Cardrooms
Construction Employers' Association
Corona Chamber of Commerce
County of Fresno
County of Humboldt
County of Kern
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
County of Mendocino
Dairy Institute of California
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce
Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce
Flasher Barricade Association
Folsom Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Housing Contractors of California
Insights Association
LA Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce

Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
League of California Cities
Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce
Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Police Officers Association
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Theatre Owners of California
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Health and Fitness Association
Northern California Power Agency
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Pacific Association of Building Service Contractors
Paso Robles and Templeton Chamber of Commerce
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
Rural County Representatives of California
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Security Industry Association
Sheriff's Employee Benefits Association
Shingle Springs/Cameron Park Chamber of Commerce
SHRM
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Southwest California Legislative Council
TechNet
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tri County Chamber Alliance
Tulare Chamber of Commerce

United Chamber Advocacy Network
United Contractors
Urban Counties of California
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
Western Car Wash Association
Western Electrical Contractors Association
Western Growers Association
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Wine Institute
Yuba Sutter Chamber of Commerce

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the sponsors, the California Federation of Labor Unions:

"Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies go beyond video and audio surveillance and leaves workers vulnerable to surveillance by the boss while in bathrooms. This is not science fiction; AI surveillance is being used now. Halo Smart Sensor boasts that it is designed for "24/7 monitoring without video or audio…ideal for spaces like restrooms." Halo claims it uses machine learning, and flags "aggression events" using key words. It also uses "infrared and thermal counters" to monitor occupancy. Throne, a "smart" porta-potty used by transit agencies in California, boasts 21 sensors inside the bathroom.

Workers deserve to use the bathroom without the boss getting real time AI updates on their location, use time, temperature, tone of voice, or key words that could include "union," "wage claim," or other words bosses can use to deny workers the right to organize their co-workers."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of private employer organizations, including the California Chamber of Commerce, are opposed to the measure as it read before the recent amendments. Their opposition arguments, which may no longer apply to the current version of the bill, included:

"AB 1331 jeopardizes safety and security in every workplace:
- AB 1331 applies to both public and private employers, including schools, hospitals, gambling establishments, cities, counties, correctional facilities, small businesses, and more.

- AB 1331 permanently bans any use of AI in security systems used in a break room or cafeteria. This means banning the following:

- Technology that pinpoints where there is an ongoing emergency, including gunshot detection or detection of sounds over a specific decibel
- Technology that can detect in video footage when and where violence or theft occurred
- Technology used to help find lost children in theme parks

- AB 1331 permanently bans any recording of audio in break rooms or cafeterias, including during an ongoing emergency
- AB 1331 allows workers (including any contractor who ever sets foot on premises) to request copies of video footage they are in, regardless of who else or what else is in that footage.
- AB 1331 functionally prohibits even simple use of AI"

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-15, 6/5/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Ávila Farías, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Macedo, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, Flora, Lackey, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco

Prepared by: Alma Perez-Schwab / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/24/26 14:06:07

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1346
Author: DeMaio (R)
Introduced: 2/21/25
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/3/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE MILITARY & VETERANS COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, McNerney, Menjivar, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/23/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: residency: dependents of members of the Armed Forces: reenrollments

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill extends eligibility for retaining resident classification for purposes of paying tuition at a public higher education institution to a dependent of an Armed Forces member who is granted reenrollment by the university, even if the Armed Forces member has been transferred out of state on military orders or has retired from active duty.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Generally known as the Uniform Residency Law, establishes a variety of residency requirements for students attending the California Community Colleges (CCC) or the California State University (CSU). The determination of

such residency status is required in order to assess either resident or nonresident fees and tuition. The Regents of the University of California (UC) may, by resolution, make these provisions of law applicable to the UC (and historically have done so). (Education Code (EC) § 68000-68134)

2) Defines a "nonresident" as a student who does not have residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date. (EC § 68018)

3) Establishes uniform residency requirements for purposes of ascertaining the amount of fees to be paid by students at CSU and CCC and establishes various exceptions to these residency requirements, including many for current and former members of the Armed Forces. (EC § 68074 and 68075)

4) Requires the CSU, and requests the UC, to require each campus in their respective systems to grant students the right to reenroll in their baccalaureate degree program after withdrawing or stopping out, if the student was in good academic standing with the university. (EC § 66208)

5) Prohibits a student who is attending, or has been admitted to, a public postsecondary educational institution from losing their resident classification if they are continuously enrolled at that institution and a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, even if that member is (1) thereafter transferred on military orders to a place outside this state where the member continues to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, or (2) thereafter retired as an active member of the Armed Forces of the United States. (EC § 68074 (b))

This bill extends eligibility for retaining resident classification for purposes of paying tuition at a public higher education institution to a dependent of an Armed Forces member who is granted reenrollment by the university after withdrawing from a baccalaureate degree program, even if the Armed Forces member has been transferred out of state on military orders or has retired from active duty.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "AB 1346 is a powerful tool to help our military dependents unlock their educational opportunities. This proposal will support students who faced setbacks but are determined to continue their education. By enabling them to return to school and still benefit from resident

tuition rates, this legislation recognizes California's commitment to second chances and personal growth."

Tuition rates and residency classification. California public higher education institutions are publicly subsidized. As a result, students classified as California residents pay lower tuition rates than nonresident students. Students classified as nonresidents may pay several times more than those charged the resident rate, making eligibility for in-state tuition a significant financial benefit for students.

Current law extends in-state residency classification to a dependent of an Armed Forces member stationed in this state on active duty. If the Armed Forces member is transferred out of state or has retired, current law further provides that the in-state residency classification of a student who is the dependent of an Armed Forces member may be retained, but is contingent upon continuous enrollment at the institution. This bill would additionally authorize the retention of in-state residency classification when the student is granted reenrollment. Under current law, reenrollment rights into a CSU or UC baccalaureate degree program may be granted to students who withdrew or "stopped out" from the program.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- The University of California estimates between $37,600 and $75,200 in lost revenues each year as a result of the bill.

- The California State University indicates that any administrative costs associated with verifying students' nonresident classification would be minor, while the Chancellor's Office estimates no costs to community colleges.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California State University, Office of the Chancellor

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/23/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bryan, Chen, Ellis, Nguyen, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Wicks

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/15/26 12:42:00

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1349
Author: Bryan (D), et al.
Amended: 7/2/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Wahab, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Menjivar, Richardson, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Umberg

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Umberg

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 1/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Consumer protection: ticket sellers

SOURCE: Music Artists Coalition
National Independent Venue Association- California

DIGEST: This bill prohibits speculative ticket sales, modernizes existing anti-bot provisions, and imposes restrictions on deceptive websites and advertising practices.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines a ticket seller as any person who for compensation, commission, or otherwise sells admission tickets to sporting, musical, theatre, or any other entertainment event. Clarifies that various entities are not a ticket seller subject to various requirements. Establishes various requirements for ticket sellers, a violation of which constitutes a misdemeanor. (Business and Professions Code §§ 22500 – 22511)

2) Prohibits a ticket seller from contracting to sell or accepting payment for tickets unless the ticket seller has lawful possession of the ticket; has a contractual right to obtain the ticket; or informs the purchaser the seller does not have possession of the tickets, has no contract to obtain the offered ticket, and may not be able to supply the ticket at the contracted price, as specified. Authorizes a ticket seller to accept a deposit from a prospective purchaser as part of an agreement that the ticket seller will make best efforts to obtain a ticket at a specified price or price range and within a specified time, provided that the ticket seller informs the purchaser orally at the time of the contract or receipt of consideration, whichever is earlier, and in writing within two days, of the terms of the deposit agreement, and includes in the oral and written notice other required disclosures. (BPC § 22502.1)

3) Prohibits a ticket seller from representing that they can deliver or cause a ticket to be delivered at a specific price or within a specific price range and fail to deliver within a reasonable time at or below or within the price and range of prices stated. Specifies that a ticket seller who violated this prohibition and violates 3) above is civilly liable to the ticket purchaser for two times the contracted price of the ticket, in addition to any sum expended in trying to attend the event, and reasonable attorney's fees and court costs. (BPC §§ 22052.2 and 22052.3)

4) Prohibits a person from using, selling, offering for sale, or advertising software designed to circumvent a ticket seller's security measures, access controls, or other controls used to ensure an equitable ticket-buying process. Makes it unlawful to use software or other technological means to purchase tickets in excess of posted limits for online ticket sales. (BPC § 22505.5)

This bill:

1) Repeals existing BPC Section 22503.5 which exempts certain primary ticket sales activities from the law.

2) Establishes various definitions and makes various conforming changes.

3) Prohibits a ticket seller from engaging in a speculative ticket sale, defined as the advertisement, listing, marketing, offering for sale, contracting for sale, acceptance of payment for, or sale of a ticket by a person who, at the time of the advertisement, listing, marketing, offer for sale, contract for sale, acceptance of payment for, or sale, does not have either actual or constructive possession of the ticket or authorization by the event presenter or venue operator to sell the ticket. Prohibits a ticket seller from advertising, listing, marketing, offering for sale, contracting for sale, accepting payment for, or selling a ticket before the ticket has been made available for sale by the event presenter, venue operator, rights holder, or original seller, unless expressly authorized by the event presenter, venue operator, rights holder, or original seller unless the ticket seller has constructive possession of the ticket.

4) Prohibits a ticket resale marketplace from knowingly or recklessly processing payment, collecting a fee, advertising, listing, marketing, offering for sale, contracting for sale, accepting payment for, or facilitating the completion of a speculative ticket sale, and requires a ticket resale marketplace to implement reasonable measures designed to prevent speculative ticket sales on its platform.

5) Strengthens prohibitions against the use of ticket-buying software and other technological methods to circumvent ticket purchasing restrictions, including posted ticket limits, electronic queues, presale restrictions, account limitations, and security or access controls. Prohibits providing, selling, marketing, or facilitating software or services used to engage in or enable this conduct.

6) Prohibits deceptive or misleading practices in the advertising, marketing, sale, or resale of event tickets, including practices that misrepresent or create consumer confusion regarding the source, authorization, affiliation, availability, price, nature, or seating location of tickets. Provides that violations constitute false or misleading advertising under existing law.

Background

California's ticket sellers regulations were largely enacted before the widespread adoption of online ticket marketplaces, digital ticketing systems, mobile ticket transfers, and sophisticated resale platforms. Today, consumers purchase, transfer, and resell tickets through a variety of online channels that did not exist when many of the ticketing statutes were first enacted. While technological advances have increased convenience and expanded access to tickets, they have also introduced

new challenges relating to speculative ticket sales, automated purchasing software, deceptive online practices, fee transparency, and restrictions on ticket transferability. Policymakers, regulators, artists, venues, ticketing companies, and consumer advocates have increasingly focused on whether existing laws adequately protect consumers in the modern ticketing marketplace.

Federal regulators have devoted significant attention to ticketing-related consumer protection concerns in recent years. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has identified hidden fees, deceptive pricing practices, and the use of automated software to circumvent ticket purchasing restrictions as practices that can harm consumers and impair fair competition. In 2024, the FTC adopted its Rule on Unfair or Deceptive Fees, commonly referred to as the "Junk Fees Rule," which requires greater transparency in ticket pricing and seeks to ensure that consumers receive meaningful information regarding the total cost of a ticket before making purchasing decisions. The FTC has also pursued enforcement actions under the Better Online Ticket Sales (BOTS) Act against entities alleged to have used automated technologies, multiple accounts, and other means to evade ticket purchasing limits designed to provide equitable access to tickets.

At the same time, federal antitrust scrutiny of the live entertainment industry has continued to increase. In 2010, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) approved the merger of Live Nation and Ticketmaster subject to conditions intended to address competition concerns. In 2019, the DOJ announced that Live Nation had violated portions of the consent decree governing the merger and extended the decree through 2025. Following highly publicized ticketing issues associated with major concert tours and broader concerns regarding competition in the live entertainment marketplace, the DOJ and a coalition of state attorneys general, including California, filed an antitrust lawsuit against Live Nation Entertainment and Ticketmaster in 2024. The litigation alleges conduct affecting competition in concert promotion, venue services, and ticketing and reflects ongoing national debate regarding competition, consumer choice, and access to live entertainment events.

The Legislature has considered numerous measures over the past decade intended to address evolving issues in the ticketing marketplace. AB 329 (Pan, Chapter 325, Statutes of 2013) prohibited the use and sale of software designed to circumvent ticket purchasing controls intended to ensure an equitable ticket-buying process. AB 1556 (Friedman, Chapter 180, Statutes of 2021) strengthened consumer protections relating to cancelled, postponed, and rescheduled events by establishing refund requirements. Subsequent legislative efforts have explored a

range of consumer protection issues including fee transparency, all-in pricing, resale marketplace disclosures, speculative ticket sales, deceptive practices, ticket transferability, and consumer understanding of ticket transactions. In addition, broader consumer protection measures such as SB 478 (Dodd, Chapter 740, Statutes of 2023), California's Honest Pricing Law, reflect increasing legislative interest in ensuring transparency and fairness in transactions involving mandatory fees.

Although California law already prohibits certain unfair ticketing practices, many of the existing statutes were enacted before the widespread use of digital ticketing, mobile ticket transfers, online resale marketplaces, and automated purchasing technologies. As a result, questions have emerged regarding whether existing laws adequately address modern practices such as speculative ticket sales, the use of sophisticated software to circumvent ticket purchasing controls, deceptive online ticketing websites, and consumer confusion regarding whether a ticket is being sold by an authorized seller or through a resale marketplace. Consumer advocates and policymakers have also raised concerns regarding consumer confusion about the source of tickets, whether tickets are being sold by authorized sellers or resale marketplaces, and whether sellers possess or have a legal right to transfer the tickets being offered for sale. Policymakers have increasingly examined whether additional statutory clarity is warranted to address these practices while preserving legitimate ticketing, resale, and consumer transfer rights.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the bill will result in unknown court cost pressures ranging from minor to significant to the extent the Attorney General (AG) brings civil actions against any person who violates the new requirements and restrictions regarding ticket resale marketplaces. Actual costs will depend on the number of actions filed and the time required to adjudicate each case. The Department of Justice (DOJ) reports that it does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact; this assessment suggests the department may not actively pursue enforcement using the authority prescribed in the bill. The bill will also result in unknown, potentially significant court cost pressures as the False Advertising Law, Unfair Competition Law, and general statutes governing ticket sellers provide a private right of action for consumers. Although trial courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for additional court resources. For context, the proposed 2026-27 Governor’s Budget would provide $70 million General Fund support to the Trial Court Trust Fund. The bill will also result in unknown local county costs to the extent that a six month misdemeanor jail sentence is imposed, though incarceration

for this offense appears unlikely. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $80,000. Actual county incarceration costs will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Music Artists Coalition (co-source)
National Independent Venue Association – California (co-source)
American Association of Independent Music
American Federation of Musicians
Artist Rights Alliance
Black Music Action Coalition
California African American Chamber of Commerce
California Arts Advocates
California Black Chamber of Commerce
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
California League of United Latin American Citizens
California Live Events Equity Alliance
California Multicultural Business Alliance
Central Valley Latino Mayors & Elected Officials Coalition
Central Valley Yemen Society
City of Thousand Oaks
Fan Alliance
Folk Alliance International
Future of Music Coalition
Hispanic 100
Latin Business Association
Music Managers Forum - US
National Action Network Sacramento
National Independent Talent Organization
Recording Academy
Recording Industry Association of America
SAG-AFTRA
Si Se Puede Fresno, Tulare, Kings & Kern
Songwriters of North America
Venue Pilot

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

StubHub
Valley Industry and Commerce Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A coalition of stakeholders previously opposed to the bill writes that "The amended bill strikes the right balance between consumer protection, transparency, and competition in California's live event marketplace. We believe these changes strengthen AB 1349 and better serve fans, artists, venues, and communities across the state. California's live event ticketing marketplace has needed meaningful reform for years. Consumers deserve a system that is transparent, competitive, and fair—one that protects fans from deceptive practices while preserving consumer choice and encouraging competition. As amended, AB 1349 represents an important step toward achieving those goals and creating a marketplace that works better for fans."

A coalition of music creators, venues, labels, workers and unions write that Most importantly, the bill prohibits speculative ticket sales—listing or selling tickets that the seller does not actually possess or have a legally enforceable right to obtain. Consumers should not unknowingly purchase what amounts to a promise that a reseller hopes to fulfill at some future date. By requiring sellers to possess or have enforceable contractual rights to the tickets they offer for sale, AB 1349 restores integrity and accountability to the marketplace while protecting consumers from fraud and last-minute cancellations… Importantly, AB 1349 does not prohibit the lawful resale of tickets. Legitimate secondary marketplaces remain free to operate and consumers will continue to have access to resale opportunities. Rather, the bill establishes reasonable guardrails to prohibit speculative ticket sales, deceptive marketing, website impersonation, and other practices that undermine consumer confidence and disadvantage both artists and fans. Honest resale continues; fraud and deception do not."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Valley Industry and Commerce Association writes that "While VICA supports efforts to protect consumers from deceptive practices and ticket-buying bots, AB 1349's approach would discourage legitimate resale, limit flexibility for fans who can no longer attend events, and tilt the playing field toward incumbents with the most data and market leverage."

StubHub notes that "While the Department of Justice and some states settled with Live Nation and Ticketmaster, over 30 states, including California, continued in court. California and the other State AGs have since asked the court for structural remedies, including breaking up Live Nation and Ticketmaster. StubHub believes any new ticketing industry policy should take this lawsuit into account and treat the

industry holistically, ensuring it doesn't further entrench monopolistic control while the courts are still determining remedies. StubHub requests amendments to request that a marketplace be allowed to cure by refunding the buyer the full purchase price, including all fees and to update various definitions. StubHub also states that this bill introduces the undefined concept of "authorized entry" and could create a mechanism by which [LiveNation Entertainment] could potentially cancel tickets sold by competitors after deeming them 'unauthorized' even though they are valid tickets. AB 1349 could be strengthened by instead focusing on enforcing existing bots laws by encouraging collaboration between those breached by bots, event presenters and original ticket sellers, and those who enforce the law." StubHub also states that the bill "includes discriminatory trademark requirements that prohibit the use of identifying graphics or those that are 'likely to mislead a reasonable consumer.' This vague and ambiguous standard is ripe for abuse by ticket sellers who are seeking to eliminate legitimate competitors from the marketplace. For example, a competitor may argue that a seat map is an identifying graphic and attempt to prohibit any non-affiliated entity from properly informing consumers about the seat location of a ticket being offered for sale, leading to greater confusion and difficulties for consumers. To address this opacity, we suggest aligning Sec. 22505.6 with existing trademark law pursuant to California Code Section 17200…Aligning AB 1349 with best practices from other states can ensure bad actors are prohibited from participating in the marketplaces while protecting fair competition."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 1/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, DeMaio, Flora, Garcia, Gipson, Hadwick, Johnson, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz, Ta, Tangipa, Wicks, Wilson

Prepared by: Sarah Mason / B., P. & E.D. /
8/15/26 16:05:29

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) 327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1377
Author: McKinnor (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/21/25
Vote: 27

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 7/9/25
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Grayson, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-5, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Income taxes: credits: motion picture credit

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill removes the option for applicants to make a good faith effort to meet the diversity goals in their diversity work plans to receive an additional 4% Motion Picture and Television Production Tax Credit amount, effective in the 2025 taxable year.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows various income tax credits and deductions, as well as sales and use tax exemptions.

2) Enacts a tax credit against the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes for producing qualified motion pictures with a minimum production budget of at least $1 million at a certified studio construction project, in which the qualified taxpayer claiming a credit must have at least 50% ownership or a ten-year lease

with the soundstage, using most of the same definitions and requirements from the motion picture production credit detailed below (SB 144, Portantino, Chapter 114, Statutes of 2021). The California Film Commission (CFC) can allocate $150 million in credits for qualified motion pictures, but cannot allocate more than $12 million in total or $750,000 per episode.

3) Enacts a tax credit against the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes for qualified motion picture production in California, directing CFC to allocate $750 million in credits each fiscal year starting in 2025-26 and continuing through 2029-30 (SB 132 Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 56, Statutes of 2023; SB 132, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 17, Statutes of 2025; AB 1138, Zbur, Chapter 27, Statutes of 2025); CFC can allocate credits to "qualified motion pictures" that:

   a) Have 75% of the motion picture shooting days take place in California, or have 75% of the production budget incurred within the state for services or the purchase or rental of property;

   b) Commence principal photography after the date CFC approves its application, but before 180 days after the date of approval, and finish within 30 months from the date when the application was approved by the CFC, with some exceptions;

   c) Obtain a copyright from the United States Copyright Office; and

   d) Provide a workplace diversity plan checklist.

4) Provides that a qualified motion picture includes:

   a) A feature with a minimum production budget of at least $1 million; however, no more than $120 million in qualified expenditures count for purposes of generating the credit.

   b) An independent film, defined as a motion picture that is produced by a company that is neither publicly traded, nor more than 30% owned by publicly traded companies.

   c) A television series that relocated to California, defined as one that had 75% of the principal photography of the most recent season conducted outside the state.

d) A live action or animated series produced in California with a run time of 20 minutes or more on average, with a minimum budget of $1 million per episode.

e) Animated films produced in California with a $1 million budget or more.

f) A large-scale competition show produced in California with a minimum budget of $1 million per episode.

g) A pilot for a new live action or animated series with a run time of 20 minutes or more on average, produced in California with a minimum budget of $1 million per episode.

5) Provides that the amount of the tax credit is equal to either:

a) 35% of the qualified production expenditures for films, television series, pilots, or independent films, or

b) 40% of the qualified expenditures for relocating television.

6) States that qualified expenditures are amounts paid or incurred to purchase or lease tangible personal property, pay wages and fringe benefits, or contract for services performed in the state during production in California.

7) Excludes from qualified expenditures any amounts paid to writers, directors, music directors, music composers, music supervisors, producers, or performers, other than background actors.

8) Requires applicants to file an application with the CFC that includes specified information, including data regarding the diversity of the workforce employed by the applicant, and, if applicable, a summary of the applicant's voluntary programs to increase the representation of minorities and women in the job classifications.

9) Allows credit "uplifts" for productions when they incurred qualified expenditures for:

a) Filming outside the Los Angeles zone (5%), as defined;

b) Visual effects expenditures, where at least 75% or a minimum of $10 million is paid or incurred in California (5%); and

c) Local-hire labor for feature films, new TV series, recurring TV series, pilots, and miniseries (10%), as well as independent films or relocating TV series (5%).

10) Directs CFC to increase the total credit amount allocated to an applicant by up to 2% of the initial credit amount for qualified productions that employ trainees from a Career Pathways Program.

11) Requires CFC to include on a tax credit application the diversity of the workforce employed by the applicant, including the ethnic and racial makeup of the individuals employed by the applicant during the production of the qualified motion picture, to the extent possible.

12) Precludes CFC from allocating credits unless applicants supplied aggregate data for individuals whose wages cannot generate credits (such as actors, writers, and directors), including their gender, ethnic, and racial makeup.

13) Under the soundstage and general production credit, limits the overall credit amount to 96%, unless the qualified taxpayer chooses to submit a diversity work plan, and CFC determines that the applicant has met or made a good-faith effort to meet the diversity goals in its diversity work plan.

14) Requires CFC to certify an additional 4% when the qualified taxpayers submit the following to CFC:

a) A diversity work plan within 30 days after receiving a credit allocation letter, which must be consistent with the diversity work plan checklist to address diversity and be broadly reflective of California's population in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, veteran status, disability status, and ZIP code for members of the workforce whose wages are excluded from qualified expenditures.

b) A statement of the diversity goals the motion picture will seek to achieve in terms of qualified wages, and for individuals whose wages are excluded from qualified wages.

c) A plan of what strategies the motion picture will employ to achieve its diversity goals.

d) An interim assessment, and a final assessment, of whether it is meeting its diversity work plan.

15) Directs CFC to approve or reject diversity work plans to the extent allowed by state and federal law.

16) Requires CFC to also annually report diversity data supplied by applicants, commencing June 30, 2027, including an assessment of whether the diversity work plan goals are met for productions that submitted a final assessment.

17) Requires assessments to include accounts of diversity work plans submitted, interim assessments submitted, and final assessments submitted, as well as diversity checklist information.

18) Requires CFC to submit each assessment to the Legislature.

19) Directs CFC to adopt rules and regulations implementing voluntary programs designed to increase the representation of minorities and women in certain job classifications and to establish the Career Pathways Training program.

20) Requires CFC to identify a fiscal agent with direct relationships to industry skills training programs to manage the funds; and engage labor-management jointly administered training programs with skills training focused on the entertainment industry to implement the Program with CFC approval and oversight.

21) Requires applicants receiving a credit allocation letter under the current credit program to make a financial contribution to fund the Program for individuals from underserved communities to receive training for careers in the industry of 0.5% of the credit amount, which CFC can increase in 0.25% increments up to 1% after January 1, 2028.

22) Directs the Program to work with nonprofit organizations that have an established record of training and job placement in the entertainment industry, focus on training individuals from traditionally underserved communities, and offer training courses focused on skilled, technical positions that would be eligible for qualified wages if performed on a qualified motion picture as well as administrative- and industry-related technical occupations or soft skills training for the motion picture industry.

    a) Require CFC to expand the number of nonprofit organizations that partner with the Career Pathways Program to provide access to the widest cross-section of Californians, including historically disadvantaged and underrepresented individuals seeking training and employment opportunities in motion picture and television production.

b) Direct CFC to establish an application process for these nonprofit organizations, with applications submitted to the fiscal agent as part of a request for proposal process.

c) Set forth a series of requirements for CFC to initiate and sequence the request for proposal process.

d) Direct CFCs to approve Career Pathways Programs, and requires them to meet all of the following requirements:

i) Be conducted by a nonprofit organization that has an established record of training and job placement in the entertainment industry.

ii) Be focused on training individuals 18 years or older from traditionally underserved communities.

iii) Offer training courses focused on one or more of the following:

(1) Skilled, technical positions that would be eligible for qualified wages if performed on a qualified motion picture.

(2) Administrative- and industry-related technical occupations.

(3) Soft skills training.

This bill:

1) Amends the soundstage and 4.0 credits in the Personal Income and Corporation Tax laws to delete the option for applicants to show a good faith effort for CFC to certify an additional 4% credit amount. Instead, the 4% augmentation would be contingent on a finding by the CFC that the qualified taxpayer has met the diversity goals in its diversity work plan.

2) Applies commencing in the 2025 taxable year.

3) Makes conforming changes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) notes that the revenue impact of this bill is unknown. To calculate the magnitude of its potential impact to the General Fund, FTB would need to know (1) the frequency of taxpayers meeting the

diversity workplan goal, and (2) the amount of additional credits allocated. FTB assumes that the motion picture credit will be fully allocated each year, and assumes that if taxpayers meet the requisite diversity plan requirements, they would generate more credits than they would have otherwise. The annual impact would likely be less than $100,000.

- The California Film Commission (CFC) indicates that it would incur annual General Fund costs of $919,000 to support five positions to implement the provisions of the bill. Additionally, CFC estimates a one-time General Fund cost of $150,000 to update forms and contract for external consulting and software services to support to tutorial and educational materials (See Staff Comments).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/30/25)

California Arts Advocates
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
Entertainment Union Coalition
Five Individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/30/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "AB 1377 builds on the important work of expanding the state's film and television tax credit program by requiring studios who opt-in to participate in optional diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility tax credits to actually complete the plans that the studios themselves develop and submit to the California Film Commission. It's simple math. If a studio chooses to apply for additional DEIA tax credits, they actually need to do the work they are committing to do. Currently, studios only have to demonstrate a good faith effort to accomplish diversity goals in order to receive these additional tax credits. And frankly, just a good faith effort is not good enough. It is a false choice for anyone to say that California has to choose between retaining and growing jobs in the film and television industries and increasing the diversity of its workforce. The film industry can and must do both."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-5, 6/2/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson,

Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Ta

Prepared by: Colin Grinnell / REV. & TAX. / (916) 651-4117
8/31/25 16:55:41

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1383
Author: McKinnor (D), et al.
Amended: 7/1/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-2, 1/29/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public employees' retirement benefits

SOURCE: California Professional Firefighters

DIGEST: This bill (1) freezes existing Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) safety formulas to apply only to service from January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2026; (2) provides new formulas for service from 1/1/27; and (3) requires public employers to raise their PEPRA firefighter and peace officer safety pension benefit formulas to this bill's new formulas effective January 1, 2027, to give at age 55 what their PEPRA formula gives at age 57 unless the parties bargain for a higher or lower formula, as specified. It also (4) increases the PEPRA pensionable compensation caps for all PEPRA members, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes PEPRA which applies to all public employers and public pension plans on and after January 1, 2013. (Government Code § 7522 et seq.)

2) Establishes a cap on the amount of compensation that can be used to calculate a retirement benefit for all new members, as specified, of a public retirement

system equal to the Social Security wage index limit (originally $110,100, now $159,733) for employees who participate in Social Security, or 120% of that limit (originally $132,120, now $191,679) if they do not participate in Social Security. (Government Code § 7522.10)

3) Requires the retirement systems to adjust the compensation cap annually, as specified, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all Urban Consumers. (Government Code § 7522.10 (d))

4) Specifies that the Legislature reserves the right to modify the annual CPI adjustments to the compensation cap prospectively. (Government Code § 7522.02 (d)(2))

5) Prohibits an employer from offering a defined benefit (DB) plan, or combination of DB plans, on compensation in excess of the compensation cap. (Government Code § 7522.02 (e))

6) Allows an employer to offer a defined contribution (DC) plan on earnings above the compensation cap up to the federal limit on compensation that can be creditable to DB plans. Any such DC plan must comply with federal laws, and employees do not have a vested right to an employer contribution to such a plan. (Government Code § 7522.02 (f))

7) Defines "new member" with regard to eligibility for PEPRA as:

   a) An individual who has never been a member of any public retirement system prior to January 1, 2013.

   b) An individual who moved between retirement systems with more than a six month break in service, as specified.

   c) An individual who moved between public employers within a retirement system after more than a six month break in service, as specified. (Government Code § 7522.04 (f))

8) Defines "Normal Cost" to mean the portion of the present value of projected benefits under the defined benefit that is attributable to the current year of service, as determined by the public retirement system's actuary according to the most recently completed valuation. (Government Code § 7522.04 (g))

9) Specifies that the retirement formula for the DB plan will be 2% at age 62 for all new non-safety employees, excluding teachers. The formula is adjusted to encourage members to retire at later ages. The earliest an employee would be eligible to retire is age 52 with a 1% factor and the maximum retirement factor of 2.5% is provided at age 67. (Government Code § 7522.20)

10) Specifies that the retirement formula for new members of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) will be 2% at age 62. The earliest an employee would be eligible to retire is age 55 with an actuarially reduced formula, and with a maximum formula of 2.4% at age 65. (Government Code § 7522.02 (c), Education Code § 24202.6 and § 24202.7)

11) Provides for three retirement formulas for the DB plan that apply to new safety employees, as specified. The three formulas are: 2% at age 57 (basic plan); 2.5% at age 57 (safety option plan one); and 2.7% at age 57 (safety option plan 2). (Government Code § 7522.25)

12) Requires contributions from employees to the DB plan to equal to one-half of normal cost of the DB. (Government Code § 7522.30)

13) Requires that final compensation be defined for all new employees as the highest average annual compensation over a three-year period. (Government Code § 7522.32)

14) Defines "pensionable compensation" and prohibits the following types of compensation from being used to calculate a retirement benefit: compensation paid to enhance a retirement benefit; compensation previously provided "in-kind" and converted to cash in the final comp period; one-time or ad hoc payments; severance pay; pay for unused leave or time off; pay for work outside of normal hours; uniform, housing or vehicle allowances; pay for overtime, except planned overtime, extended duty workweek, or pay defined in the federal labor codes; employer contributions to DC plans; bonuses, and other pay determined to not be pensionable compensation. (Government Code § 7522.34)

15) Limits the maximum salary taken into account for <u>any</u> retirement plan (DB and DC combined) to the federal limit established under 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and prohibits an employer from seeking a federal exemption from the limit. (Government Code § 7522.42)

16) Prohibits an employer from making contributions to any public retirement plan (DB or DC) on any amounts of compensation that exceeds the 401(a)(17) limit. (Government Code § 7522.42)

17) Prohibits a public employer from offering a benefit replacement plan for any member or survivor who is subject to the federal limit on benefits established by section 415(b) of the IRC for an employee first hired on and after January 1, 2013, or to any group of employees that was not offered a benefits replacement plan prior to that date. (Government Code § 7522.43)

18) Prohibits a retroactive enhancement to a benefit formula, either due to a change to an existing formula, or due to a change to the retirement classification for a specific job. (Government Code § 7522.44)

19) Requires a public employer's contribution to a defined benefit plan, in combination with employee contributions, to be not less than the normal cost rate for that defined benefit plan for that fiscal year. (Government Code § 7522.52)

20) Prohibits post-retirement employment from exceeding 960 hours in a consecutive 12 month period. If a retiree receives unemployment benefits, he or she is prohibited from working for 12 months as a retiree for a public employer.

21) Prohibits a person who retires on or after January 1, 2013, from returning to work as a retired annuitant for a period of 180 days after retirement unless the action is approved in an open meeting, as specified by the governing body of the employer, or by California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) authority if state retiree, as specified. However, in no case could a person who receives a retirement incentive (e.g., a "golden handshake") return to work as a retired annuitant for a period of 180 days after retirement. (Government Code § 7522.56)

22) Establishes the following exceptions to 180 day rule:

    a) The retiree is participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement with the California State University.

    b) The retiree is a public safety officer or firefighter.

c) The retiree is a trustee, administrator, or fiscal advisor appointed to address academic or financial weaknesses in a school or community college district, pursuant to specified requirements.

d) The retiree is a subordinate judicial officer whose position, upon retirement, is converted to a judgeship and he or she returns to work in the converted position.

e) The retiree is a person taking office as a judge, as specified. (Government Code § 7522.56)

23) Allows more flexibility for bargaining increased cost sharing between employers and existing employees in CalPERS and retirement systems established pursuant to the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937 (37 Act). Using impasse procedures to impose cost sharing arrangements achieved through this new flexibility would be prohibited if the proposed contribution exceeds statutorily required contributions for current employees or half of the normal cost of benefits for employees first hired on or after January 1, 2013. (Government Code § 7522.30)

This bill:

1) Freezes existing PEPRA safety formulas and makes them applicable only for service from 1/1/2013 – 12/31/26, increases safety retirement plans as of 1/1/2027 for all public employers, and makes this bill's new formulas bargainable, as specified.

2) Requires employers to move, beginning January 1, 2027, from their existing PEPRA safety formula[1] to one of three new, richer retirement formulas that would give at age 55 what their PEPRA formula gives at age 57 unless the parties bargain for a higher or lower formula, as specified. [2] However, this bill prohibits employers from using impasse procedures to impose a lower plan.

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[1] Current law requires employers to offer one of three PEPRA safety formulas:
- Basic Safety 2% @ 57
- Safety Option One 2.5% @ 57
- Safety Option Two 2.7% @ 57
- (PEPRA has no fourth formula like the New Option Three)

[2] The bill creates the following four new formulas; mandates employers to move to one of the first three, as specified; and authorizes bargaining to move from that formula to one of the other new formulas.
- New Basic Safety 2% @ 55
- New Safety Option One 2.5% @ 55

3) Establishes a bargainable fourth formula that would provide 3% @ 55 rather than PEPRA's current maximum formula that provides 2.7% @ 57.

4) Increases, through a two-step modification, PEPRA's limits on compensation that a retirement system is permitted to include in the calculation of a member's retirement, thereby increasing pensions for all members, both safety and miscellaneous, who are above the current pensionable compensation caps.

   a) First, this bill mandates the systems use the 2027 Social Security 430 (b) base instead of the 2013 base to determine the pensionable compensation caps. This provision raises the cap from $159,733 to $184,500 for members covered under Social Security (e.g., miscellaneous members).
   b) Second, it raises the cap even further for members not covered under Social Security (e.g., safety members, or other members not covered under Social Security) by increasing it the from 120% to 135% of the new 2027 Social Security 430(b) base. This provision raises the cap from $191,679 to $249,075.
   c) The provisions thus increase pensionable compensation by someone over the limits up to $24,767 and $57,396 respectively, depending on whether they are covered by Social Security.

5) After imposing one of the new formulas closest to the employer's PEPRA formula, authorizes a public employer and a recognized employee organization to negotiate for a different new formula for a prospective increase to the retirement benefit formulas for safety members and new safety members.

6) Exempts the Judges' Retirement System (JRS) and JRS II from this bill's provisions.

7) Requires that benefit formula increases adopted pursuant to this bill, be established in accordance with PEPRA's prohibition against retroactive benefit increases.

8) Declares that it is the intent of the Legislature that this act shall not be construed to affect any retirement benefits or pension rights accrued before its effective date.

- New Safety Option Two 2.7% @ 57
- New Safety Option Three 3% @ 55 w/ pension limited to 90 % final comp

9) Finds and declares the following approximately: the state is experiencing significant challenges recruiting firefighters, police, and other first responders; firefighters face heightened risks of occupational diseases; these high-stress positions contribute to increased rates of disability, injury, and early retirement; it is necessary to adjust safety employee pension formulas to sustain an effective workforce and address occupational challenges; retirement benefits should be collectively bargained; and current compensation caps are too low.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations committee:

- The current California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) actuarial analysis estimates that the bill would increase pension costs for *state, school, and local agency* plans by approximately $4.8 billion in the present value of future benefits (PVB) and increase annual normal cost contributions by approximately $233 million. The estimated impact varies depending on which provisions of the bill are implemented, as follows:
    - Increasing the pensionable compensation limit for all PEPRA members: This provision would increase annual normal cost contributions by approximately $241 million in the first year and increase the PVB by approximately $4.2 billion. The higher costs would apply to all affected employee groups with members whose benefits are impacted by the increased compensation limit.
    - Increase the benefit age factor for PEPRA safety members: This provision would increase annual normal cost contributions by approximately $38 million in the first year and increase the PVB by approximately $560 million. These costs could be partially offset by an unknown amount if earlier retirement reduces workplace injuries or disability-related costs among safety members.
    - Allowing PEPRA and new safety members to receive a 3 percent at age 55 retirement formula: This provision would increase annual normal cost contributions by approximately $353 million in the first year and increase the PVB by approximately $3.4 billion. However, these costs would only occur if an employer and employees negotiate adoption of the enhanced formula through a memorandum of understanding.
- Under current law, PEPRA member and employer contributions generally share the normal cost of benefits equally. Therefore, for the first two scenarios—

which would take effect without collective bargaining—the employer share of the estimated increase in normal cost contributions is approximately $141 million annually across state, school, and local employers (General Fund, special funds, and local funds). Additionally, these estimates reflect costs for current PEPRA members only; employer costs would increase over time as additional employees are hired under the bill's expanded benefit provisions.

- CalPERS would incur approximately $1.2 million in one-time administrative costs for information technology updates, revised publications and training materials, increased member call volume, and program support (Public Employees' Retirement Fund).

Background

Pension Systems Prior to 1999. Before 1999, California's public retirement systems, including CalPERS, provided defined benefit pensions based on a formula incorporating three primary factors: (1) years of credited service, (2) age at retirement, and (3) final compensation. Rather than depending on investment returns or employee contributions, retirees received a guaranteed lifetime benefit determined by statute and, if applicable, collective bargaining agreements. Retirement formulas varied by employee classification, with public safety employees generally receiving more generous benefits than miscellaneous employees because of the physical demands and earlier retirement expectations associated with those occupations.

Prior to 1999, the retirement formulas available to state employees were generally more modest than those adopted in subsequent years. For example, many state miscellaneous employees were covered by a formula that provided approximately 2 percent of final compensation for each year of service at age 60 ("2 percent at 60"), while safety employees typically received formulas such as 3 percent at age 50. Final compensation for many members was based on the highest average compensation earned over a three-year period, which moderated pension costs by reducing the effect of end-of-career salary increases.

Senate Bill 400 (1999). Enacted during a period of exceptional investment returns and strong funding levels, SB 400 (Ortiz, chapter 555, statutes of 1999) significantly enhanced retirement benefits for many CalPERS members. The legislation was premised on the expectation that robust investment earnings would finance much of the increased cost without requiring substantial additional employer contributions. Among its most significant provisions, SB 400:

- Increased retirement formulas for many state miscellaneous employees from 2 percent at age 60 to 2 percent at age 55, with benefit factors increasing to 2.5 percent at age 63.

- Applied the enhanced benefit formulas retroactively to both past and future service, substantially increasing the pensions of current employees.

- Changed the calculation of final compensation for many state and school members from the highest consecutive three-year average salary to the highest consecutive 12-month salary, resulting in larger pension benefits.

- Authorized numerous state and local employers to adopt enhanced retirement formulas for additional employee groups, particularly public safety employees.

Impact of SB 400. SB 400 substantially increased long-term pension liabilities for CalPERS and participating public employers. Although the legislation was enacted when CalPERS was more than fully funded and investment markets were producing historically high returns, subsequent market downturns—particularly the dot-com collapse and the 2008 financial crisis—revealed that investment earnings alone were insufficient to finance the enhanced benefits. Employer contribution rates increased significantly over time as unfunded liabilities grew, placing additional pressure on state and local government budgets. While investment losses and other actuarial factors also contributed to the growth in pension liabilities, SB 400's retroactive benefit enhancements are widely regarded as one of the principal factors increasing the long-term cost of California's public pension systems.

Assembly Bill 340 (2012) – Public Employees' Pension Reform Act. In response to growing pension liabilities and escalating employer costs, the Legislature enacted AB 340 (Furutani, Chapter 296, Statutes of 2012), establishing the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). The reforms took effect on January 1, 2013, and primarily apply to individuals who first entered California public retirement systems on or after that date ("new members"). Existing employees (referred to as “classic” members) generally retained the retirement benefits they had already earned. PEPRA implemented numerous reforms designed to reduce future pension costs, including:

- Establishing lower retirement formulas for new employees, such as 2% at age 62 for many miscellaneous state employees and 2.7% at age 57 for many public safety employees.

- Increasing normal retirement ages for many employee groups.

- Requiring new members to pay at least 50% of the normal cost of their pension benefits, subject to collective bargaining.

- Imposing limits on pensionable compensation that may be used to calculate retirement benefits.

- Narrowing the definition of pensionable compensation by excluding certain forms of pay from retirement calculations.

- Restricting pension-spiking practices and placing new limits on post-retirement employment.

Impact of AB 340 (PEPRA). PEPRA fundamentally changed the trajectory of California's public pension systems by reducing the cost of retirement benefits for employees hired on or after January 1, 2013, while preserving the vested benefits of existing employees. Because the reforms apply only to new members, their fiscal effects have accumulated gradually as the workforce has turned over. As a result, an increasing share of employees is now covered by lower-cost benefit formulas, reducing normal pension costs and slowing the growth of future pension liabilities.

These reductions, however, do not represent actual budgetary savings or cash available for other state priorities. Instead, they reflect avoided costs—estimates of how much higher employer pension contributions would have been absent PEPRA. Employer pension contributions have generally continued to increase as governments fund benefits earned by current employees and pay down substantial unfunded liabilities associated with benefits earned before PEPRA's enactment. Thus, while PEPRA has improved the long-term sustainability of California's public retirement systems by lowering the cost of future benefits, it has not eliminated existing pension debt or reduced annual pension expenditures in absolute terms.

Thus, PEPRA did not eliminate existing unfunded liabilities associated with benefits previously earned by employees and retirees, which continue to require significant employer contributions. As a result, while PEPRA improved the long-term sustainability of California's public retirement systems, governments remain responsible for amortizing pension obligations that accrued before the reforms took effect.

Comments

AB 1383 Risks. According to the California Actuarial Advisory Panel (CAAP):

"In addition to increasing liabilities and normal cost rates, the changes to the benefit formulas and compensation limits can be expected to increase the future volatility of costs. Higher benefits must eventually result in higher liabilities and assets. With more assets invested in the market, investment risk will go up. With higher liabilities, changes in behavior or assumptions that affect those liabilities - such as a potential future reduction in the discount rate - will have a greater impact on the required contributions.

The changes in the benefits may also result in modifications in member behavior that could result in other unexpected downstream effects. For example, improvements in the benefit multiplier for public safety members at earlier ages could result in changes in the retirement patterns for these members. These changes may not only affect plan costs, but also other compensation and personnel-related costs, such as post-retirement medical benefits and training or recruitment expenses."

In other words, if the market significantly deteriorate and/ or members work longer to earn higher pensions under the new formulas than they otherwise would have under the PEPRA formulas, both pension costs and other post-employment benefit costs will be higher than these estimates. Moreover, CalPERS' estimates for AB 1383 are based on 2024 data. The economy has become much more volatile in the last 2 years with the Iran war-related and Trump tariff-related inflation spikes, the increasing concern over private equity valuations (where CalPERS has substantially increased its portfolio weighting), the potential that we are living through another era of "irrational exuberance" in the stock market driven by AI technology investments, and the expected disruption of economic activity by those AI innovations.

AB 1383's Potential Inequity from Lifting the Compensation Caps. According to CAAP: "For PEPRA members, current statutes require that members pay at least half of the normal cost (subject to rounding provisions for some groups). As discussed above, the overall normal cost is expected to increase for all groups if they include members with benefits that are expected to be affected by the current PEPRA compensation limits, including non-Safety groups. If this occurs, PEPRA member contribution rates will increase for all members of the group [, unless the employer negotiates to pay more than half the normal cost, which would now be allowed under AB 1383 [3]]. In other words, it is likely that all PEPRA members

[3] The bill no longer authorizes employers and employee representatives to negotiate for the employer to pay the employee contribution. Thus, any increase to normal costs will most likely impact lower-wage employees who will never benefit

would be required to contribute more, even though only the more highly compensated individuals will experience any benefit improvement, at least for the non-Safety groups."

In other words, lower compensated employees whose salary will never hit the current compensation limits will pay more so that highly compensated employees can get an even larger pension.

Unintended Victims if Cost Estimates Are Incorrect. Pension benefits, with good reason, have special protection in California under constitutional case law. Once given, employers can almost never take back the benefits for members who were working when the new benefits were offered. If benefit costs exceed projections, pension systems' unfunded liability goes up. That requires the systems to raise employer contributions and may result in pressure for employees to reach an agreement to share in the increased unfunded liability. Employees, especially veteran employees, may find that option more palatable than potential immediate reductions in force, suspension of anticipated raises, colas, or other benefit enhancements since the unfunded liability costs would be amortized over 20 years under current CalPERS policy. In any case, those increased employer costs reduce public funding that could otherwise be used to support vulnerable communities who depend on public services for other critical services, especially in health and welfare programs. Because projected costs are likely to increase during economic downturns, these reductions hit those vulnerable communities at the moment they most need public services and when public employers' resources are most strained.

Ironically, public employee recruitment and retention can also suffer significantly since public employers often respond to resource and cost pressures from increased personnel costs and economic downturns by eliminating positions. That can result in fewer employees being pressured to do far more work with a lot less help and fewer resources. It can also lead to younger employees being blocked from advancement opportunities because of position and wage freezes.

AB 1383's Effect on Local Government with Pension Systems other than CalPERS. The proponents have focused exclusively on costs to the state from changes to CalPERS' plans. However, this bill's provisions mandate that all public pension funds adopt the McKinnor compensation caps and formulas. There are 20 CERL county systems and several other independent systems that will face increasing

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from the increased pensionable compensation caps. Effectively, lower-paid employees will partially subsidize larger pensions to highly compensated employees.

costs because of this bill's mandate. Those costs have not been evaluated, presumably because they are local costs not General Fund costs. Yet should those local governments fail to be able to pay the increased pension costs, there will be great pressure for the state to bail them out. In any event, those costs will compound the reduction for services to vulnerable populations as outlined above, given that counties and local districts play an outsized role in providing those services. Committee time constraints prevent a substantive analysis of this bill's potential impact on local government, but opponents and researchers have expressed significant concern that local governments are already under-resourced and unprepared for this bill's costs. [4] For example, according to a coalition of local government associations, including the California State Association of Counties:

"Unfortunately, pension costs for many California public agencies continue to be a challenge, threatening the delivery of basic public services, compromising general fund budgets and, indeed, posing a long-term fiscal challenge to the State itself. That is why it is increasingly important that any change to the system be sustainable, fair to taxpayers and employees, and provide long-term financial stability. Any change to PEPRA must protect the fiscal integrity of public agencies and retirement for public employees."

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1054 (Gipson) would establish a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) to allow participating State Bargaining Unit (BU) 5 peace officers (CAHP) and State BU 8 firefighters (CalFire Local 2881) to elect a deferred retirement date, continue working 1-5 years, freeze their defined benefit (DB) pension benefit accrual, divert their employee contributions and potentially the employer contributions to their DROP account, earn a guaranteed specified interest rate on their DROP savings, and upon reaching the deferred retirement date, receive their pension and a one-time lump-sum payment of their program account balance upon termination of employment and subsequent retirement from CalPERS. The bill is currently on the Senate Floor.

SB 292 (Pan, 2015) specified that the requirement for employees subject to PEPRA to pay 50 percent of the actuarial normal cost of their pension benefits does not apply in specific cities and one county in which voter-approved tax levies were

[4] State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) June 3, 2025, letter to Honorable Tina McKinnor; Local *Governments Not in Position for AB 1383*, Reason Foundation, May 2026

enacted prior to 1978 for the purpose of paying pension costs. The Governor vetoed the bill.

SB 13 (Beall, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2013) made technical corrections to PEPRA in order to clarify the Legislature's intent in enacting PEPRA and to assist affected employers and retirement systems in implementation of PEPRA.

AB 340 (Furutani, Chapter 296, Statutes of 2012) established PEPRA, which made major revisions to the public retirement systems' laws and applied to all public employers and public pension plans on and after January 1, 2013.

SB 400 (Ortiz, Chapter 555, Statutes of 1999), among other things, provided enhanced retirement formulas for State Peace Officer/Firefighter members who retire on or after January 1, 2000. The enhanced formula provided a retirement benefit factor of 3 percent at and after age 55 and allowed members to retire, on a discounted basis, as early as age 50 and also provided enhanced pension formulas for state patrol members who retire on or after January 1, 2000. The enhanced formula provided a retirement benefit factor of 3 percent at age 50 and was also available as a contract option for local contracting agencies.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Professional Firefighters (source)
Aaron Read & Associates
Alameda City Firefighters Local 689
Alameda County Firefighters IAFF Local 55
Alameda Police Officers Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Anaheim Firefighters Association Local 2899
Apple Valley Professional Firefighters Association Local 4742
Arcadia Firefighters Association Local 3440
Arcata Professional Firefighters Local 4981
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs
Atascadero City Firefighters Local 3600
Barstow Professional Firefighters Association Local 2325
BART Police Officers' Association
Berkeley Fire Fighters Association Local 1227
Brea Professional Firefighters Association
Burbank Fire Fighters Local 778
Cal Fire Local 2881
Calaveras Professional Firefighters Association Local 5149

California Association of Psychiatric Technicians
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Fire Chiefs Association
California Fish & Game Warden Supervisors and Managers Association
California Fraternal Order of Police
California School Employees Association
California Statewide Law Enforcement Association
Calistoga Professional Firefighters Association Local 5606
Carlsbad Firefighters Association Local 3730
Cathedral City Firefighters Association Local 3654
Cathedral City Police Management Association
Central Firefighters Local 3535
Chico Firefighters Local 2734
Chino Valley Professional Firefighters Local 3522
Chowchilla City Police Officers' Association
Chula Vista Firefighters Local 2180
City of Downey Police Department
City of Gilroy Council Member Zach Hilton
Compton Fire Fighters Local 2216
Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriffs Association
Contra Costa County Professional Firefighters Local 1230
Corona Firefighters Association Local 3757
Coronado Fire Fighters Association Local 1475
Costa Mesa Firefighters Local 1465
Culver City Firefighters Association Local 1927
Davis Professional Firefighters Association Local 3494
Deputy Sheriff's Association of Santa Clara County
El Cajon Firefighters Local 4603
El Cajon Police Officers' Association
El Dorado Hills Professional Firefighters Local 3604
El Segundo Firefighters Association Local 3682
Encinitas Firefighters Association Local 3787
Escondido Firefighters Local 3842
Fallbrook Firefighters Association Local 1622
Fire Districts Association of California
Five Cities Professional Firefighters Local 4403
Fountain Valley Firefighters Local 4530
Fremont Fire Fighters Local 1689
Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association
Fullerton Firefighters Association Local 3421

Gilroy Fire Fighters Local 2805
Glendale Professional Firefighters Local 776
Hanford Police Officers Association
Hawthorne Police Officers Association
Hayward Fire Fighters Local 1909
Healdsburg Fire Fighters Local 2604
Heartland Firefighters of LA Mesa Local 4759
Heartland Firefighters of Lemon Grove Local 2728
Hemet City Firefighters Association Local 2342
Huntington Beach Firefighters Association Local 3354
Imperial Beach Firefighters Association Local 4692
Kern County Firefighters Local 1301 Union
LA Mesa Police Officers Association
LA Verne Firefighters Association Local 3624
Laguna Beach Firefighters Local 3684
Lakeside Firefighters Association Local 4488
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974
Long Beach Firefighters Local 372
Long Beach Police Officers Association
Los Angeles County Firefighters Local 1014
Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association
Los Angeles Port Police Association
Marin Professional Firefighters Local 1775
Marina Peace Officer Association
Merced City Firefighters Local 1479
Milpitas Firefighters Local 1699
Modesto City Firefighters Local 1289
Monrovia Firefighters Local 2415
Montebello Firefighters Association Local 3821
Monterey Firefighters Association Local 3707
Murrieta Fire Fighters Local 3540
Napa City Fire Fighters Local 3124
Nasa JPL Professional Firefighters Local I-94
National City Firefighters Association Local 2744
Nevada County Professional Firefighters Local 3800
Newport Beach Firefighters Association Local 3734
Oakland Firefighters Local 55
Oceanside Firefighters Association Local 3736
Ontario Professional Firefighters Local 1430

Orange City Firefighters Local 2384
Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3631
Oxnard Firefighters Local 1684
Palm Springs Firefighters Association Local 3601
Palo Alto Police Officers' Association
Palo Alto Professional Firefighters Local 1319
Pasadena Firefighters Local 809
Paso Robles Professional Firefighters Local 4148
Patterson Firefighters Association Local 4577
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Petaluma Firefighters Local 1415
Plumas County Sheriff's Employees' Association
Poway Firefighters Association Local 3922
Professional Firefighters of Sonoma County Local 1401
Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters Association Local 2274
Rancho Santa Fe Professional Firefighters Association Local 4349
Redlands Police Officers Association
Redlands Professional Firefighters Association Local 1354
Redondo Beach Fire Association Local 2787
Rialto Professional Firefighters Local 3688
Richmond International Association of Firefighters Local 188
Riverside City Firefighters Association Local 1067
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Running Springs Professional Firefighters Local 5308
Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs Association
Salinas Fire Fighters Local 1270
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association
San Diego City Fire Fighters Local 145
San Diego County Probation Officers Association
San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798
San Gabriel City Firemen’s Association Local 2197
San Joaquin County Correctional Officers Association
San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230
San Luis Obispo City Firefighters Local 3523
San Marcos Firefighters Association Local 4184
San Mateo County Firefighters Local 2400
San Ramon Valley Firefighters Association Local 3546
Santa Ana Police Officers Association
Santa Barbara City Firefighters Association Local 525

Santa Barbara County Firefighters Local 2046
Santa Clara City Firefighters Local 1171
Santa Clara County Firefighters Local 1165
Santa Cruz City Firefighters Local 1716
Santa Cruz Deputy Sheriffs Association
Santa Maria City Firefighters Local 2020
Santa Monica Fire Fighters Local 1109
Sausalito Police Association
Seaside Firefighters Local 1218
SEIU California
Sierra County Deputy Sheriff's Association
Sierra County Sheriff
Sierra Madre Professional Firefighters Local 5216
Sierra Nevada Firefighters Local 3800
Solana Beach Firefighters Local 3779
Sonoma County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Sonoma County Law Enforcement Association
St. Helena Police Officers' Association
Stanislaus Consolidated Firefighters Local 3399
Stockton Firefighters Local 456
Templeton Firefighters Local 5422
Torrance Fire Fighters Association Local 1138
Tracy City Fire Fighters Local 3355
Union City Police Officer's Association
Union of American Physicians and Dentists
Vacaville Firefighters Association IAFF Local 3501
Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F-116
Ventura City Firefighters Association Local 3431
Ventura County Deputy Sheriffs Association
Ventura County Professional Firefighters Association Local 1364
Ventura County Professional Peace Officers Association
Vista Firefighters Association Local 4107
Walnut Creek Police Officer Association
Watsonville Professional Firefighters Local 1272
West Covina Fire Fighters Local 3226
Williams Police Officers Association
Woodland Professional Firefighters Local 4029

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

Amador Water Agency
Association of California Cities - Orange County
Association of California School Administrators
Beverly Hills; City of
Brea; City of
California Association of Recreation & Park Districts
California Association of School Business Officials
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
California Transit Association
City of Adelanto
City of Alameda
City of Belmont
City of Benicia
City of Big Bear Lake
City of Burbank
City of Calimesa
City of Carpinteria
City of Citrus Heights
City of Colton
City of Concord
City of Cotati
City of Del Mar
City of Dublin
City of Fairfield
City of Firebaugh
City of Folsom, California
City of Fontana
City of Fortuna
City of Garden Grove
City of Grand Terrace
City of Hermosa Beach
City of Highland
City of Inglewood City Hall
City of Irwindale
City of LA Palma
City of LA Quinta, Riverside County, California
City of Lakewood CA
City of Lancaster

City of Larkspur
City of Livermore
City of Lomita
City of Los Alamitos
City of Lynwood
City of Manteca
City of Mill Valley
City of Morro Bay
City of Napa
City of Norwalk
City of Pacific Grove
City of Paramount
City of Pasadena
City of Perris
City of Pleasanton
City of Port Hueneme
City of Poway
City of Rohnert Park
City of Salinas
City of San Rafael
City of San Ramon
City of Santa Paula
City of Santa Rosa
City of Solvang
City of Sonoma
City of St. Helena
City of Stanton
City of Suisun City
City of Sunnyvale
City of Vernon
City of Walnut
City of Weed
City of Yorba Linda
Coalinga; City of
Conejo Recreation and Park District
Contra Costa County
County of Humboldt
County of Kern
County of Napa
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Danville; Town of
Fillmore; City of
Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control District
Hemet; City of
Herlong Public Utility District
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
Kingsburg; City of
LA Habra: City of
League of California Cities
Los Angeles Unified School District
Marin County Council of Mayors and Council Members
Mission Viejo; City of
Murrieta; City of
Oceanside; City of
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
Soledad; City of
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association
Stanton; City of
Templeton Community Services District
Town of Apple Valley
Town of Fairfax
Town of Moraga
Tulare; City of
Urban Counties of California
Valley Center Municipal Water District
Valley Sanitary District

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to a coalition of firefighter unions:

"Firefighting is one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs imaginable. Those who answer the call to serve their communities put their mental and physical health on the line every time they respond to an incident, risking a known range of injuries and illnesses to serve the public. Firefighters carry a 14% higher risk of dying of cancer than the general population. This risk is so great that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified occupational exposure as a firefighter as a Group 1 known human carcinogen.

These cancer risks come from innumerable sources, including circadian rhythm disruption, smoke inhalation, exposure to toxic chemicals and substances, and

many more. Every day on the job represents a new set of exposures to these known risks.

Asking firefighters to work for a significantly longer period in a deadly profession for a reduced pension does not make economic sense. While changes to the pension systems that disadvantage workers are nearly always framed in financial terms such as increasing the health of the fund and reducing taxpayer costs, these costs are not fully eliminated but transferred.

Put most simply – the longer a firefighter is forced to work, the more likely it is they will develop cancer or another job-caused illness, thereby incurring significant workers' compensation and industrial disability retirement costs. Due to minimum staffing requirements, every day that a firefighter is off the job due to a job-caused injury or illness, another member must be assigned to take their place, adding the cost of mandatory overtime to what is necessary for treatment. With these health risks in mind, the adjustments proposed by AB 1383 will help protect firefighters by providing pathways for a dignified retirement by age 55.

Outside of health-related issues, a recent report by the National Institute on Retirement Security found that pension benefits drive significant economic activity in California, both through the direct support of jobs and their wages as well as the spending power granted to retirees by their secure retirement. This activity included $28.4 billion in wages and salaries, $86.9 billion in economic output, and $16.6 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues. This results in the "pension benefit multiplier" that means each dollar paid out in pension benefits results in $1.27 in economic output, and the "taxpayer investment factor" that means each dollar contributed by taxpayers results in $4.30 in economic output."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to a coalition of approximately several local government associations, including the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California Special Districts Association:

"AB 1383 increases mandated costs without a way for public agencies to absorb them.

The potential cost of this bill comes at a time of fiscal uncertainty. Much like the state, local agencies are facing budget challenges, as revenues are not keeping pace with the costs of delivering services or new mandates and are facing significant loss of resources and heightened responsibilities due to passage of H.R. 1. Some local agencies are currently considering significant budget cuts across all

departments. AB 1383 would cause increased benefit costs and new cost pressures, leading to serious cost increases for local government.

According to CalPERS, given the current discount rate of 6.8%, *AB 1383 is expected to increase the required contributions of employers and PEPRA members and increase the present value of future benefits (PVB) by $4.8 billion across State, Schools, and Local Agency plans.* In addition to the change in PVB, CalPERS estimates that the *change to the accrued liability to be $233 million* across State, Schools, and Local Agency plans. Additionally, AB 1383 further proposes that employers may increase their PEPRA formula to 3% at age 55 through individual agency collective bargaining. The benefit for this formula will be limited to 90 percent of final compensation. The increase in the normal cost due to this change could lead to increased annual normal cost contributions of $353 million in the first year and increase the present value of future benefits by $3.4 billion.

The CalPERS analysis does not include estimates for non-CalPERS pension systems, including for the twenty county-operated pension systems. Additionally, these costs are based on a snapshot of current compensation for public employees and could be heightened significantly if compensation increases rise and exceed the current compensation cap.

As of June 30, 2025, the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF) was approximately 79% funded. If CalPERS misses its investment return mark of 6.8%, local agencies in CalPERS and the State have to pay the difference. Again, this bill would compound costs for local governments and the State and do nothing to offset the costs.

While this bill may be prospective, agencies have already been authorizing salary increases since the passage of PEPRA under the assumption that the cost of benefits would remain in line with current PEPRA law. The prospective costs would likely cause an immediate financial strain on any agency, especially those with a large number of PEPRA safety employees."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-2, 1/29/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez,

Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Ellis, Gipson, Johnson, Macedo, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia

Prepared by: Glenn Miles / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/21/26 18:46:08

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1405
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-1, 7/1/25
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 11-2, 7/8/25
AYES: Padilla, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Hurtado, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NOES: Dahle, Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares, Jones

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Artificial intelligence: auditors: registration

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes a registration process for auditors of artificial intelligence (AI) systems or models through the Government Operations Agency (GovOps) and creates and sets standards, reporting requirements, and transparency requirements for registered AI audits.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/25/26 require GovOps to establish an AI Auditor Registry, no later than January 1, 2029, prohibits an unregistered person from conducting a covered AI audit, add various transparency and reporting

requirements for registered AI auditors, create standards for registered AI auditors, and refine various definitions, among other changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes GovOps within the state government. (Government (Gov.) Code § 12800.)

2) Establishes the Department of Technology within GovOps, and charges it with the approval and oversight of information technology projects. (Gov. Code §§ 11545, 11546.)

3) Defines "artificial intelligence" as an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments. (Gov. Code § 11546.45.5(a)(1).)

This bill:

1) Requires GovOps, no later than January 1, 2029, to do all of the following:
   a) Establish an AI Auditor Registry on their website allowing AI auditors to register and natural persons to report misconduct by a registered AI auditor.
   b) Fix annual registration fees at an amount not exceeding the reasonable costs of administering these provisions.

2) Requires GovOps, starting January 1, 2029, to do all of the following:
   a) Issue a unique registration number to each registered AI auditor.
   b) Publish various pieces of information, as specified, provided in a publicly accessible format on the agency's website.
   c) Retain misconduct reports submitted using the relevant mechanism for as long as the relevant AI auditor remains registered, plus 10 years.
   d) Share misconduct reports submitted using the relevant mechanism with other state agencies as necessary for enforcement purposes.
   e) Periodically review and update the annual registration fees and reporting mechanism.

3) Prohibits a person, beginning January 1, 2029, from offering, selling, or conducting a covered AI audit unless the person is registered with GovOps.

4) Defines "covered AI audit" as an audit conducted to assess internal controls, processes, or systems implemented for an AI system or model that are necessary for compliance with state law.

5) Requires an AI auditor that registers with GovOps to provide all of the following information:
   a) The business name and contact information of the AI auditor.
   b) A list of California laws and regulations under which the AI auditor conducts covered AI audits.
   c) Any relevant certifications or accreditations held by the AI auditor.
   d) A written description of the AI auditor and their services.
   e) A standard operating procedure, as specified.

6) Requires a registered AI auditor, after conducting a covered AI audit, to provide the auditee with an audit report, as specified, and to conduct covered AI audits in accordance with widely recognized industry standards.

7) Requires a registered AI auditor to retain various information and documentation, as specified, for at least 10 years.

8) Requires a registered AI auditor to adhere to various standards of independence, objectivity, and integrity, as specified.

9) Prohibits a registered AI auditor from preventing an employee from disclosing information to the Attorney General or Labor Commissioner, submitting a misconduct report, as specified, or retaliate against an employee for disclosing information or submitting a misconduct report.

10) Prohibits a registered AI auditor shall not do either of the following:
   a) Prevent an employee from disclosing information to the Attorney General or the Labor Commissioner, or using the misconduct-reporting mechanism, including through terms and conditions of employment or seeking to enforce terms and conditions of employment, if the employee has reasonable cause to believe the information indicates that the auditor is out of compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
   b) Retaliate against an employee for so disclosing information.

11) Requires the registration number of a registered AI auditor to be clearly and conspicuously displayed on all advertising materials offering or soliciting covered AI services.

12) Provides that violations of the above provisions constitute grounds for removal from the registry and referral to the Attorney General or other appropriate

enforcement authority. Provides that prior to removal from the registry, GovOps shall provide the AI auditor with a written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure or contest the removal.

13) Provides that GovOps may adopt regulations reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this bill, as specified.

14) Establishes the AI Auditors' Registration Fund within the State Treasury. The fund shall be administered by GovOps and all moneys collected or received by the agency hereunder shall be deposited into this fund to be available for expenditure by GovOps, upon appropriation, to administer this program.

Background

AI models and systems have opened beneficial possibilities and breakthroughs in a variety of sectors, including healthcare, creative industries, education, business operations, and customer service. However, these models also pose significant risks to society with their capabilities, whether it is through the creation of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) weapons, utilization to carry out cyberattacks at scale, algorithmic discrimination, or evasion of the oversight and control of their developers or deployers. Given how complex and opaque these models can be and the lack of comprehensive regulatory oversight of their development, one tool that has increasingly been advocated for as a foundational element of any such framework is the use of independent auditing.

In order to ensure the proper oversight and identification of sophisticated and reliable AI auditors should such auditing be required by law in the future, this bill establishes a process for GovOps to register AI auditors and create a publicly accessible listing of relevant information about these auditors. The bill provides clear guidelines for "covered AI audits" and a number of requirements to ensure no conflict of interests or misconduct on the part of registered AI auditors. This bill is author-sponsored and supported by Oakland Privacy and Transparency Coalition.ai. It is opposed by industry associations, including TechCA. For a more thorough discussion of the bill, please see the Senate Judiciary Committee analysis of the bill, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Comment

According to the author:

> Over the past decade, artificial intelligence (AI) systems have become increasingly powerful and accessible. Just as financial audits improve transparency and mitigate risks in capital markets, independent third

> party audits play a critical role in ensuring that AI systems are developed and deployed responsibly. Well-structured audits can help identify risks, verify compliance with ethical and legal standards, and build public trust in AI technologies. AB 1405 establishes a registration process for AI auditors and sets minimum transparency, competency, and ethical standards for registered auditors.

The use of AI auditing can be a key tool in effectively assessing how AI systems and models are working and what their impacts are. Audits can ensure legal compliance and, when shared publicly, afford a measure of transparency. Mandatory audits create baseline standards across the industry, making it easier to compare different AI systems and ensuring minimum safety thresholds. This levels the playing field and prevents a "race to the bottom" where competitive pressures lead companies to skimp on safety measures. Audit requirements create transparency that builds public confidence in AI systems, especially those used in critical domains like healthcare, criminal justice, or financial services. When people know systems have been independently verified, they are more likely to accept and appropriately use AI tools. This accountability also provides recourse when things go wrong, as qualified auditors can provide concrete evidence for regulatory decisions and legal proceedings. They create a paper trail showing whether companies exercised reasonable care, which is crucial for determining liability when AI systems cause harm. Especially given the limited resources and expertise of state government in carrying out such audits, ensuring the availability of qualified independent auditors is crucial to the effectiveness of any auditing regime.

Last year, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published an "Artificial Intelligence Accountability Policy Report." One of its main recommendations focused on the utility of such independent auditing:

> Independent AI audits and evaluations are central to any accountability structure. To help create clarity and utility around independent audits, we recommend that the government work with stakeholders to create basic guidelines for what an audit covers and how it is conducted – guidance that will undoubtedly have some general components and some domain-specific ones. This work would likely include the creation of auditor certifications and audit methodologies, as well as mechanisms for regulatory recognition of appropriate certifications and methodologies.

> Auditors should adhere to consensus standards and audit criteria where possible, recognizing that some will be specific to particular risks (e.g., dangerous capabilities in a foundation model) and/or particular deployment contexts (e.g., discriminatory impact in hiring). Much work is required to create those standards – which NIST and others are undertaking. Audits and other evaluations are being rolled out now concurrently with the development of technical standards. Especially where evaluators are not yet relying on consensus standards, it is important that they show their work so that they too are subject to evaluation. Auditors should disclose methodological choices and auditor independence criteria, with the goal of standardizing such methods and criteria as appropriate. The goals of safeguarding sensitive information and ensuring auditor independence and appropriate expertise may militate towards a certification process for qualified auditors.
>
> AI audits should, at a minimum, be able to evaluate claims made about an AI system's fitness for purpose, performance, processes, and controls.[1]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Government Operations Agency (GovOps) reports a significant fiscal impact (General Fund, AI Auditors Enrollment Fund) ranging from $5 million to $10 million annually. Specifically GovOps reports that its estimated costs depend on platform complexity, startup and recurring costs; platform development: build public enrollment and reporting system; staffing: program administration, IT development, data management; maintenance & oversight: manage complaints, compliance, enforcement coordination; and, fund management.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

A-LIGN
California Initiative for Technology and Democracy
Common Sense Media
Fathom
Oakland Privacy
Omidyar Network

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[1] *Artificial Intelligence Accountability Policy Report* (March 27, 2024) NTIA, **https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ntia-ai-report-final.pdf** [as of August 25, 2026].

TechEquity Action
Transparency Coalition.ai

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

Business Software Alliance
California Chamber of Commerce
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Techca
Technet

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Oakland Privacy asserts:

> Assembly Bill 1405 addresses the large question of how all of the companies that will have to start performing risk assessments under proposed regulations at both the CA Privacy Protection Agency, and on the legislative agenda, will find qualified auditors. While we firmly believe that the creation of new markets causes human beings to pivot to fill the void, it makes perfect sense for the State to help such organic processes along.
>
> AB 1405 proposes a registry that would provide in one place the experiences and qualifications of a number of third party entities who are available to take on this work and allows businesses, especially those who may never have undertaken a risk assessment audit before, to get a handle on how to contract for this service.
>
> We are always glad to see the Legislature making an effort to produce useful compliance resources and we think this makes a great deal of sense. It is always more cost-effective and more helpful to the people of the State to aid regulatory compliance as opposed to penalizing for noncompliance.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Business Software Alliance writes:

> [T]he existing AI auditing ecosystem is immature. While existing state law requires audits of certain public-sector high-risk automated decision systems, proposed legislation, namely AB 1018, would require third-party audits of private-sector automated decision systems. We have concerns regarding requirements for third-party audits of private-sector AI systems because today's AI auditing ecosystem is nascent and lacks: (1) comprehensive standards for how AI audits should be conducted; (2) a robust framework for governing

the professional conduct of AI auditors; and (3) sufficient resources for conducting AI audits. Establishing clear mechanisms for audits of government AI systems that are already required by current law may help ensure those audits are conducted efficiently, however, we are concerned by any legislation that seeks to create auditing regimes for private-sector AI systems and encourage policymakers to consider more widely used and workable accountability tools, like impact assessments.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 6/2/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Gallagher, Sanchez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Davies, Dixon, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548, Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/26/26 9:43:13

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1526
Author: Committee on Governmental Organization
Amended: 8/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 15-0, 7/8/25
AYES: Padilla, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Jones, Ochoa Bogh, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/1/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Horse racing: audits of the horsemen's organizations: license fee deposits: minisatellite wagering facilities

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various technical and non-substantive changes to provisions of the Horse Racing Law including, among other things: eliminating the 90-day time limit on conducting specified audits and authorizes the California Horse Racing Board to permit exceptions to the requirement, and eliminates an existing statutory requirement that each application for a license to conduct a horse race meeting by a private racing association to include a $10,000 deposit, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/18/26 eliminate an existing statutory requirement that each application for a license to conduct a horse race meeting by a private racing association to include a $10,000 deposit and eliminate associated references in Horse Racing Law.

Senate Floor Amendments of 6/2/26 eliminate the 90-day time limit on conducting the annual audit and authorize the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) to permit exceptions to the audit requirement.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes the Legislature via Article IV, Section 19(b) of the Constitution of the State of California to provide for the regulation of horse races and grants the CHRB the authority to regulate the various forms of horse racing authorized in this state.

2) Authorizes the CHRB to approve minisatellite wagering sites, as defined, under specified conditions.

3) Requires an organization formed by associations or fairs to operate the audiovisual signal system to execute a specified agreement with the association conducting a racing meeting and the minisatellite wagering facility that specifies, among other things, the components of its racing program, including, out-of-zone, out-of-state, and out-of-country races, that an association or fair will make available to the site.

4) Requires an annual audit of the financial books and records of the horsemen's organizations, with respect to pension funds received by the organizations pursuant to specified laws, to be conducted by a nationally recognized accounting firm within 90 days of the close of the fund's business year.

5) Requires each application for a license to conduct a horse racing meeting to be accompanied by a deposit to secure the payment of any license fee imposed pursuant to specified provisions of that law, in the form of a certified check payable to the Treasurer of the State of California, in the amount of $10,000.

6) Requires a person engaged in the conduct of a recognized horse racing meeting to pay a separate license fee imposed under other provisions of the Horse Racing Law in lieu of the license fee subject to that deposit requirement.

This bill:

1) Requires explicitly the above-mentioned agreement to specify which live in-state races would be provided by the association or fair to the site.

2) Eliminates the above-mentioned 90-day time limit on conducting the annual audit described above and authorizes the CHRB to permit exceptions to the audit requirement.

3) Eliminates the above-mentioned $10,000 deposit requirement and eliminates associated references in the Horse Racing Law.

4) Makes other non-substantive changes, including deleting obsolete statutes.

Background

Author's Statement. According to the author's office, "this bill removes an outdated provision concerning mini-satellite wagering sites and makes related technical updates. Furthermore, it defines 'live' for mini-satellite contractual purposes to mean 'live in-state' races as part of the organization's overall racing program."

Additionally, "the $10,000 deposit is no longer relevant as racing associations now pay their annual proportional share to support CHRB and related programs. Further, even if a racing association chose not to pay their share of the funding formula, a $10,000 deposit would be extremely ineffective. To compare, in FY 2024-25, associations paid a pro-rata proportion of over $18 million, far greater than a $10,000 deposit."

And lastly, "staff are no longer collecting these outdated deposit checks from associations and instead state in their review that the 'deposit is on file' when the license is issued. The CHRB would prefer to remove the deposit requirement and related references and accurately represent that no deposit is necessary or has been collected to eliminate staff acting contrary to statute or collecting funds without merit from licensees."

Satellite Wagering. Satellite wagering via an off-track facility has been legal in California since the 1980s when California racetracks started to experience declining attendance and handle figures. The industry believed that making the product easier to access not only would expose and market horse racing to potential customers but also would make it more convenient for the existing patrons to wager more often. However, while off-track-betting and simulcasting can open new revenue pathways, they often cannibalize traditional on-track

income, putting tracks at further financial risk and potentially contributing to closures.

Simulcasting. Simulcasting is the process of transmitting the audio and video signal of a live racing performance from one facility to a satellite for re-transmission to other locations or venues where pari-mutuel wagering is permitted. Simulcasting provides racetracks with the opportunity to increase revenues by exporting their live racing content to as many wagering locations as possible, such as other racetracks, fair satellite facilities, and Indian casinos. Revenues increase because simulcasting provides racetracks that export their live content with additional customers in multiple locations who would not have otherwise been able to place wagers on the live racing event.

Distribution of Audiovisual Signals and Wagering. Thoroughbred racing associations and fairs in California can distribute the audiovisual signal and accept wagers on the results of out-of-state thoroughbred races during their own race meetings. This is allowed even on days when no live races are being held at their venues. There is a limit on the number of out-of-state races that can be imported into California for betting purposes. On days when there is live thoroughbred or fair racing happening in California, the total number of races imported from out-of-state must not exceed 75 races-per-day.

California Horse Racing Board. The CHRB designates the organizations that represent California horsemen for each breed. Pursuant to specified sections of the Business and Professions Code, CHRB rules, and requirements outlined in applicable license applications, recognized industry participants that receive statutory distributions are required to comply with annual reporting obligations. Specifically, existing law requires an annual audit of the financial books and records of the horsemen's organizations, with respect to pension funds received by the organizations pursuant to specified laws, to be conducted by a nationally recognized accounting firm within 90 days of the close of the fund's business year. Under Business and Professions Code section 19613.2(c), the CHRB may take disciplinary action against a horsemen's organization that fails to annually file its audited financial statements.

Individuals seeking a copy of a horsemen's organization's complete audited financial statements may obtain one by contacting the CHRB headquarters office in Sacramento.

According to the California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT), the current statutory timeframe is not workable because CTT must first obtain financial information and related data from other entities before it can complete and submit the report. Rather than routinely submitting the annual report late, CTT is seeking to revise the statute so that the reporting deadline more accurately reflects the time needed to receive the necessary information and data.

Specifically, AB 1526 eliminates the 90-day time limit on conducting the annual audit and would authorize the CHRB to permit exceptions to the audit requirement.

Additionally, Horse Racing Law requires that each application for a license to conduct a horse race meeting by a private racing association include a $10,000 deposit. Relatedly, when the CHRB issues a license, it must specify certain information per statute, including a recitation of the payment to and receipt by the CHRB of the deposit to secure payment of the license fee. This deposit was originally used to secure the license fee and provide upfront funding to the Board and drug testing program. However, the California Legislature has overhauled the CHRB's license fee mechanisms several times, making this deposit unnecessary.

Currently, each racing association conducting racing pays a proportional amount as determined by an annual formula devised by the CHRB in consultation with stakeholders (Bus. & Prof. Code § 19616.51). Per statute, this proportional amount is considered a license fee and supports the CHRB and the equine drug testing program. The CHRB stopped collecting deposits from racing associations in 2015, yet it is still technically required by statute.

This bill eliminates the $10,000 deposit requirement and the associated references in Horse Racing Law.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 397 (Strickland, 2025) authorizes thoroughbred and Appaloosa horses to enter into quarter horse races at any distance, as specified; and, amends the conditions that a licensed quarter horse racing association can conduct thoroughbred racing as part of its racing program, as specified. This bill was never heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee.

SB 844 (Rubio, 2025) increases the limit on the importation of out-of-state thoroughbred races by a California thoroughbred racing association or fair for pari-

mutuel wagering from 75 to 80 races-per-day, as specified. This bill is pending in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee.

AB 1389 (Rubio, Chapter 9, Statutes of 2026) adds the New York Stakes to the group of identified race meetings which are exempt from the current 75-race per day limit on imported races into California for the purposes of wagering.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/17/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/17/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/1/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen, McKinnor, Papan

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/19/26 10:35:20

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1534
Author: Irwin (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-10, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Federal Workforce Pell Grant program: local workforce development boards: participant training requirement

SOURCE: The Institute for College Access & Success

DIGEST: This bill 1) establishes state consumer protection standards for public and private postsecondary institutions seeking to participate in the federal Workforce Pell Grant program for short-term workforce training programs; and 2) modifies Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements by requiring local workforce development boards to ensure that at least 50% of participants receive workforce training services beginning in 2028.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 update the title of the California Priority Jobs Credentials List to the California Priority Programs List.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes the federal Pell Grant to provide aid to students who demonstrate financial need. The Pell Grant award can be used for tuition and fees, books, and supplies, transportation, and living expenses for the equivalent of up to six years of full-time enrollment. The maximum Pell Grant for the 2025-26 academic year (which covers the period from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) is $7,395. The minimum Pell Grant award for the same time frame is $740. (United States Code (USC) Title 20 § 1070)

2) Establishes the federal Workforce Pell Grant program (via H.R. 1, Public Law 119-21), beginning July 1, 2026, to provide federal Pell Grant funding for eligible students enrolled in short-term workforce training programs aligned with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industries.

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC); and, defines "independent institutions of higher education" as nonpublic higher education institutions that grant undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, or both, and that are formed as nonprofit corporations in California and are accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). Specifies that for purposes of any code or statute, a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the USDE as of January 1, 2025, shall retain that recognition until July 1, 2029, provided that the accrediting agency continues to operate in substantially the same manner as it did on January 1, 2025. (Education Code (EC) § 66010, et seq.)

2) Establishes California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) as the state agency charged with administering state financial aid programs to qualifying students enrolled in qualifying institutions of higher education throughout the State. Existing law requires CSAC to prescribe the use of standardized student financial aid applications for California. (EC § 69433 and § 69510, et seq.)

3) Establishes the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to coordinate workforce development programs and support workforce policy in California. (Government Code § 15550, et seq.)

4) Provides for implementation of the federal Workforce Pell program, including alignment of the Cal Grant C program and other conforming changes. (EC § 69870)

This bill:

1) Prohibits a public and private higher education institutions from disbursing Workforce Pell Grant program funds to students enrolled in the institution's short-term programs, and from advertising, marketing, or informing students about the availability of those funds, unless the institution has met both of the following:

   a) Obtained authorization from CSAC, on behalf of the Governor, as prescribed.

   b) Obtain approvals and meet all federal requirements.

2) Prohibits CSAC from authorizing public and private higher education institutions to receive Workforce Pell Grant program funds for a short program if it does any of the following:

   a) Partners, contracts, or affiliates with an entity, including an institution or organization, that is not accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the USDE, and that provides the instructors for the instruction of the short-term program, unless one of the following applies:

      i) The institution partners, contracts, or affiliates with the entity for the purpose of offering instruction for a registered apprenticeship program.

      ii) The short-term program has a contract education agreement with a participating community college that meets the specified requirements.

   b) The institution meets all of the following requirements:

      i) Discloses and ensures that the entity is a company that is separate from the institution and a description of all of the services that the entity is contracted to provide for the institution in the manner specified.

      ii) Ensures the entity is not paid using incentive compensation or tuition sharing with the institution.

      iii) Ensures the entity does not exercise authority of any kind over the institution's governance or decision-making processes, including participation in any deliberative or decision-making committee, task force, or other body, related to the design or development of core curriculum or instruction, admission standards, determining enrollment targets, or creation of new short-term programs. The entity may provide

consultation or technical assistance in an advisory capacity only, and the institution shall retain sole and independent authority for all final decisions.

c) Offers or affiliates with a company that offers financing for the short-term program using a private educational loan, including the specified types of financing.

d) Charges tuition and fees to a student for the short-term program that is more than the maximum amount of Workforce Pell Grant program funds available for a student in the short-term program. The prohibition does not apply if the portion of tuition and fees that exceeds the maximum Workforce Pell Grant program amount is paid on behalf of the student by the specified third parties.

3) Authorizes CSAC to use the California Priority Programs List to determine whether a short-term program satisfies the following requirement:

a) Provides an education aligned with the requirements of high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

b) Meets the hiring requirements of employers in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

c) Leads to a recognized postsecondary credential that is stackable and portable across more than one employer or prepares students enrolled in the short-term program for employment in an occupation for which there is only one recognized postsecondary credential and that awards the credential upon completion.

4) Authorizes the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to enter into a data-sharing agreement with the Office of Cradle to Career Data to the extent it is necessary to establish and maintain the California Priority Jobs Credential List.

5) Modifies the following provisions to the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker program, effective July 1, 2028:

a) Requires local workforce development boards, instead of spending a minimum of 30% of specified *funds* for adults and dislocated workers, to ensure that at least 50% of *participants* enrolled in the adult and dislocated worker program receive workforce training services.

i) Prescribes the training services that count toward the participant training requirements, as specified.

6) Retains the existing WIOA expenditure reporting, requires separate WIOA participant reporting requirements, and clarifies the Employee Development Department (EDD) reporting process in the event a local area does not report leverage funds.

7) Makes other conforming and technical changes.

8) States various findings and declarations related to the federal Workforce Pell Grant program and workforce training opportunities.

9) States that it is the Legislature's intent to expand access to high-quality workforce training opportunities by defining standards for short-term programs to be eligible for the federal Workforce Pell Grant program and requiring an increase in participants that receive workforce training services under the federal WIOA program.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Californians looking to gain new skills or advance in their careers by enrolling in short-term workforce training programs may be eligible for new financial assistance. The federal government is set to begin rolling out Workforce Pell Grants for eligible Californians seeking to enroll in short-term programs lasting eight to 15 weeks. These programs will lead to industry-recognized credentials in sectors like healthcare, IT and skilled trades, and will train participants for high-wage and in-demand jobs.

"As states prepare to implement this historic expansion of aid, proper safeguards are necessary to ensure these programs deliver real opportunities for students and their families and prevent them from wasting their lifetime-limited Pell Grant eligibility. AB 1534 includes important consumer protection measures that protect students from risky private loans and require programs to charge reasonable costs and fully disclose partnerships with unaccredited organizations."

Federal Workforce Pell program. Congress enacted H.R. 1, in the Summer of 2025. Among the many provisions contained in the measure is a section that expands Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in short-term, career-focused training programs that meet defined quality requirements and lead to industry-recognized credentials. The workforce training programs tend to be between 8 and 14 weeks in length and are intended to provide rapid pathways to employment in

high-demand industries. This expansion is commonly referred to as "Short-Term Pell" or "Workforce Pell."

According to the National Governors Association and America Achieves, in their Workforce Pell: An Overview for Governors March 2026 policy memo, "the Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the next ten years, the federal government will invest approximately $1.5 billion in Workforce Pell Grants of about $2,200 per recipient, although awards will vary as they are prorated based on program length and student need. However, research on such short-term programs demonstrates that while some programs deliver strong labor market returns, many do not. This new funding stream represents an opportunity for Governors to drive resources to the strongest programs to address critical workforce development needs and better align postsecondary training to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand jobs through their implementation decisions."

The Workforce Pell goes into effect on July 1, 2026, the USDE proposed regulations in March 2026, and is expected to finalize regulations later this Spring. Presently, the draft regulations leave Governors with considerable leeway in the details of implementation.

Workforce Pell and existing state financial aid programs. As mentioned, Workforce Pell is designed to support short-term workforce training programs that may be completed in as little as eight weeks and can be up to 15 weeks in duration. California's primary state financial aid programs under Cal Grant generally support students enrolled in degree and longer-term certificate programs. Specifically, Cal Grant C supports occupational and technical training programs that are at least four months in length. To that end, Workforce Pell is filling a gap in student aid not covered under the Cal Grant program. This bill establishes additional state participation standards for Workforce Pell but does not modify eligibility for existing state financial aid programs.

Consumer protection measures. This bill aims to create state-level consumer protection standards intended to protect Workforce Pell recipients enrolling in short-term programs. The proposed requirements are applicable to public and private higher education institutions physically located in this state seeking to participate in the Workforce Pell program. Among other provisions, this bill restricts tuition and fee levels, limits the use of certain private financial arrangements, establishes conditions governing third-party partnerships, and requires participating programs to demonstrate alignment with workforce needs. Specifically, this measure prohibits institutions from charging tuition and fees that exceed the maximum available Workforce Pell award, unless the excess amount is

paid by an employer, labor-management partnership, or another third-party that does not require repayment by the student. It also prohibits participation by institutions that offer or affiliate with providers of private education loans, income share agreements, or similar credit products. This bill also requires CSAC to deny authorization to institutions that do not satisfy specified requirements. The proponents of this measure argue that restricting tuition levels limits reliance on private educational loans and income share agreements, and that imposing requirements for third-party partnerships and alignment with workforce needs helps ensure students are participating in quality programs that will lead to meaningful employment opportunities related to their field of study/training.

Third-Party providers and tuition-sharing arrangements. This bill further prohibits higher education institutions from receiving authorization to participate in the Workforce Pell if it compensates a third-party provider through tuition sharing or incentive compensation arrangements. The sponsors of this bill argue that these compensation models may create incentives to prioritize enrollment growth over student outcomes and can blur the lines between higher education institutions and for-profit education providers. Proponents point to recent disputes involving online program manager (OPM) partnerships with public and private institutions, including the University of Southern California and 2U, and Caltech and Simplilearn, and a 2023 State Auditor review of UC's use of OPMs as issues that may arise from these types of partnerships. A UC audit identified 52 UC contracts with OPMs in effect at that time, none of which involved undergraduate programs. Of those contracts, 30 were with five UC campuses, of which 15 pertained to continuing education provided through campus extension units. This bill does not prohibit institutions from partnering with OPMs or other third-party providers. Rather, it restricts certain compensation arrangements and limits the role third-party entities may play in academic and institutional decision-making. Institutions may continue to contract with third-party providers if the partnership satisfies the bill's specified conditions. This bill also preserves the institution's responsibility for academic decision-making by prohibiting third-party entities from exercising authority over curriculum development, admissions standards, enrollment targets, or the creation of new short-term programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- The Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs in the low tens of thousands of

dollars for each participating district to develop an implementation plan necessary to participate in the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program. Participation in the program is voluntary, therefore the exact cost would depend on the number of community college districts that elect to pursue Workforce Pell eligibility. The Chancellor's Office also estimates one-time General Fund workload costs of $12,000 to $24,000 to develop and distribute a guidance memo and provide technical assistance to the field.

- The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), Office of Cradle to Career Data (C2C) and the Employee Development Department (EDD) each indicate that the costs to implement this bill would be minor and absorbable. The 2026 Budget Act includes $1.3 million in General Fund for the C2C for workload related to the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program.

- This bill could result in additional costs for local workforce development areas to submit corrective actions plans to the EDD for not meeting the bill's participant training requirements. The extent of these costs is unknown and could be deemed to be reimbursable by the Commission on State Mandates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

The Institute for College Access & Success (source)
CA EDGE Coalition
California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy
Campaign for College Opportunity
Children Now
County of Kern
EdTrust-West
JobTrain
Prismatic Research & Strategy
Public Advocates
San Bernardino Community College District
San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
Southern California College Attainment Network
Tipping Point Community
uAspire
Young Invincibles

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

AllCampus

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-10, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Castillo, Chen, Flora, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 12:19:56

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1537
Author: Bryan (D), Carrillo (D) and Ortega (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-21, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Peace officers: secondary employment

SOURCE: ICE Out of California Coalition

DIGEST: This bill prohibits specified peace officers from engaging in any form of secondary employment that involves engaging in, arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to or out-of-state federal immigration laws, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 specify that the prohibition above extends to the enforcement of immigration laws of another state, and adds language to the findings and declarations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to set minimum standards for the recruitment and training of peace officers, develop training courses and curriculum, and establish a professional certificate

program that awards different levels of certification based on training, education, experience, and other relevant prerequisites. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §§ 830-832.10; 13500 et seq.)

2) Requires POST to establish a certification program for peace officers, as defined, and provides that basic, intermediate, advanced, supervisory, management, and executive certificates shall be established for the purpose of fostering professionalization, education, and experience necessary to adequately accomplish the general police service duties performed by peace officers. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subds. (a), (b).)

3) Gives POST the authority to suspend, revoke, or cancel any certification, which extends to any certificate or proof of eligibility issued by the commission, including any certificate or proof of eligibility that is invalid, inactive, expired or canceled. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subd. (f).)

4) Establishes the California Public Records Act (CPRA), which generally provides that access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state, and requires government agencies to disclose government records to the general public upon request, unless such records are exempted from disclosure. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 7920.000 et seq.)

5) Provides that the CPRA does not require the disclosure of peace officer personnel files and background investigation files gathered by law enforcement agencies that are in the custody of POST in connection with the commission's authority to verify eligibility for the issuance of certification and investigate grounds for decertification of a peace officer including any and all investigative files and records relating to complaints of, and investigations of, police misconduct, and all other investigative files and materials. (Gov. Code, § 7923.601.)

6) Provides that the personnel records of peace officers and custodial officers and records maintained by a state or local agency or information obtained from these records, are confidential and shall not be disclosed in any criminal or civil proceeding except by discovery. This provision does not apply to investigations or proceedings concerning the conduct of peace officers or custodial officers, or an agency or department that employs those officers, conducted by a grand jury, a district attorney's office, the Attorney General's office, POST, or a civilian oversight board, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 832.7, subd. (a).)

7) Specifies that notwithstanding the above provision or any other law, specified peace officer or custodial officer personnel records and records maintained by a state or local agency – including any record relating to an incident in which a sustained finding was made involving dishonesty by a peace officer, as specified – are not confidential and shall be made available for public inspection pursuant to the CPRA. (Pen. Code, § 832.7, subd. (b)(1).)

8) Prohibits a local agency officer or employee from engaging in any employment, activity, or enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to their duties as a local agency officer or employee or with the duties, functions, or responsibilities of their appointing power or the agency by which they are employed. (Gov. Code, § 1126, subd. (a).)

9) Prohibits an officer or employee from performing any work, service, or counsel for compensation outside of their employment where any part of their efforts will be subject to approval by any other officer, employee, board, or commission of their employing body, unless otherwise approved. (Gov. Code, § 1126, subd. (a).)

10) Authorizes each appointing power to determine, subject to approval of the local agency, those outside activities which, for employees under its jurisdiction, are incompatible with their duties as local agency officers or employees, and provides that an employee's outside employment, activity, or enterprise may be prohibited if certain conditions are met. (Gov. Code, § 1126, subd. (b).)

11) Prohibits a state officer or employee from engaging in any employment, activity, or enterprise that is clearly inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to their duties. (Gov. Code, § 19990.)

12) Authorizes each appointing power to determine, subject to approval of the Department of Human Resources (Cal HR), those activities which, for employees under its jurisdiction, are incompatible with their duties. (Gov. Code, § 19990.)

13) Provides that every executive or ministerial officer, employee, or appointee of the State of California, or any county or city therein, or any political subdivision thereof, who knowingly asks, receives, or agrees to receive any emolument, gratuity, or reward, or any promise thereof excepting such as may be authorized by law for doing an official act, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, § 70, subd. (a).)

14) Specifies that the above prohibition does not preclude a peace officer from engaging in, or being employed in, other employment while off duty from his or her principal employment and outside his or her regular employment as a peace officer of a state or local agency. (Pen. Code, § 70, subd. (e)(1).)

15) Provides that subject to the above, and except as provided by written regulations or policies adopted by the employing agency, or pursuant to an agreement between the employing agency and a recognized employee organization representing the officer, no officer shall be prohibited from engaging in, or being employed in, other employment while off duty from their principal employment and outside their regular employment as an officer. (Pen. Code, § 70, subd. (e)(2).)

16) Requires an employer, if they withhold consent to allow an officer to engage in or be employed in other employment while off duty, to, at the time of denial, provide the reasons for denial in writing to the officer. (Pen. Code, § 70, subd. (e)(3).)

This bill:

1) Provides that notwithstanding the above provisions permitting secondary employment a peace officer shall not engage in any form of secondary employment, including contract based or as an individual contractor, that involves engaging in arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to or out-of-state federal immigration laws.

2) Exempts service with any branch of the United States Armed Forces from the above prohibition.

3) Specifies that a violation of the prohibition in (1) above is an act of serious misconduct and may constitute grounds for decertification, as specified.

4) Requires a peace officer to report to their employing law enforcement agency any conditional offer of secondary employment subject to (1) above.

5) Defines the following terms for the purposes of the prohibition in (1) above:

    a) "Law enforcement agency" means any local or state entity that employs a peace officer.

    b) "Conditional offer" is defined as any communication from a potential employer to an individual officially offering an individual to accept a position.

c) "Peace officer" refers to a range of sheriff's deputies, police officers, marshals, investigators, custodial officers, correctional officers, parole officers and agents, and probation officers, as specified.

d) "Response" is defined as any communication from a peace officer replying to a conditional offer.

6) Provides that records that are reportable under (4) above or that are related to secondary employment pursuant to (1) above, including records of investigations into violations of that provision where there is a sustained finding that a violation did occur, shall be maintained by the law enforcement agency and shall constitute public records for purposes of the CPRA.

7) Includes several legislative findings and declarations.

8) Includes a severability clause.

Comments

Penal Code section 70 makes it a crime for a public employee in California to receive consideration in exchange for doing an official act. This provision also makes clear that a peace officer is not prohibited from engaging in casual or part-time employment as a private security guard or patrolman for a public entity or a private employer, provided certain conditions are met as to both, and only when the officer is off-duty from their principal employment. Moreover, section 70 makes clear that peace officers are permitted to engage in other outside employment while off-duty from their principal employing agency, subject only to written regulations or policies adopted by the employing state or local agency, or pursuant to an agreement between the employing state or local agency and a recognized employee organization representing the peace officer. If an employer withholds consent to allow a peace officer to obtain outside employment while off-duty, the employer is required to provide the reasons for denial in writing to the peace officer. For instance, Sacramento Police Department's General Order on Outside Employment provides that sworn SPD officers shall not work in any outside employment that "involves any other municipality or political subdivision of the state or federal government except with express permission from the Chief of Police."

This bill seeks to prevent California law enforcement officers from seeking outside employment with an entity engaged in immigration enforcement. According to the author, "Working for ICE on one shift while working as a California law enforcement officer on the next presents insurmountable conflict of interest

concerns […] Working for both employers divides loyalty between local community safety and federal deportation priorities [and] can further erode community trust when residents fear contacting the police due to a potential association with immigration enforcement." Accordingly, this bill amends Penal Code section 70 to prohibit peace officers from engaging in any form of secondary employment, including contract based or as an individual contractor, that involves engaging in arresting, detaining, transporting, or deporting individuals pursuant to federal or out-of-state immigration laws. This bill specifies that a violation of this prohibition constitutes serious misconduct and may constitute grounds for decertification of the offending officer. Moreover, this bill requires officers to report to their employing agency any conditional offer of secondary employment that involves immigration-related responsibilities described above. This bill additionally provides that records related to these offers of employment, as well as investigations into any violations of the operative prohibition where there was a sustained finding that a violation did occur, are subject to the CPRA.

For additional discussion and context, see the analysis prepared by the Senate Committee on Public Safety.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> Major costs to state law enforcement entities to maintain employment records subject to the PRA (special funds, General Fund).
>
> Major costs to local law enforcement entities to maintain employment records subject to the Public Records Act (PRA). Reimbursement would be subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates (General Fund).
>
> Minor to moderate costs to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to investigate violations of serious misconduct that may constitute grounds for decertification of employees.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

ICE Out of California Coalition (source)
AAPIs for Civic Empowerment
Able Community Development Foundation
Ahri Center, a Project of Tides Center
All of US or None (HQ)
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color

Alliance San Diego
American Friends Service Committee
Asian Prisoner Support Committee
Aypal: Building Api Community Power
Berkeley District 7 - Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra
Black Women Organized for Political Action
Buen Vecino
CA Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Community Foundation
California Democratic Party
California Faculty Association
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Public Defenders Association
California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, Aft, Afl-cio
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chispa
City of Berkeley
City of Culver City
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Courage California
Culver City Democratic Club
Drug Policy Alliance
Education and Leadership Foundation
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities
Freedom for Immigrants
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Glide
Glide Foundation
Harbor Institute for Immigrant and Economic Justice
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Initiate Justice
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Justice2jobs Coalition
Khmer Girls in Action
LA Defensa
League of Women Voters of California
Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
Multi-faith Action Coalition
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
New Light Wellness
Nextgen California
Oakland; City of
Orale: Organizing Rooted in Abolition Liberation and Empowerment
Orange County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Second District
Orange County Equality Coalition
Orange County Justice Fund
Orange County Rapid Response Network
Pacifica Social Justice
Peace and Justice Law Center
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
Resilience Orange County
Rubicon Programs
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Public Defender
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Secure Justice
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Showing Up for Racial Justice San Diego
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Smart Justice California, a Project of Beyond Impact
Social Justice Collaborative
South Bay People Power
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
St. Joseph Justice Center
Stockton Democrats Together
The Social Justice Ministry of the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Goleta, CA
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, Social Action Committee

Universidad Popular
Viet Rainbow of Orange County
Viet Rise
Viet Voices
Vietnamese American Roundtable
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Youth Alliance
Youth Justice Coalition

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
U.S. Department of Justice
Multiple Individuals

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-21, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González,

Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Valencia

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /916-651-4118
8/24/26 12:15:28

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1540
Author: Mark González (D), et al.
Amended: 6/15/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 7-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Stern, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Grayson, Pérez, Rubio
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-8, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: LGBTQ+ youth

SOURCE: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Equality California

DIGEST: This bill directs the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to establish a dedicated "Press 3" function within the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988) to direct a caller to a LGBTQ+ specific crisis line, if the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA) makes an annual determination first, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law establishes the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, which designates "988" as the universal, three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**)** maintained through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Existing state law:

1) Designates Cal OES as the lead state agency responsible for addressing natural, technological, or man-made disaster and emergencies, including activities necessary to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters to people and property.

2) Establishes, pursuant to AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2022), the Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act, to implement the national 988 system in California, and creates the 988 State Suicide and Behavioral Health Crisis Services Fund to receive revenue generated by a specified surcharge on telephone access lines.

3) Requires Cal OES to implement and oversee the technology infrastructure, coordination, and transfer of calls between 988, 911, and behavioral health crisis services.

This bill:

1) Makes numerous legislative findings and declarations for purposes of this bill, including the following legislative intent:
   a) It is the intent of the State of California to continue its long history of advancing policies that support suicide prevention efforts and further the initiative to address our youth mental health crisis. Young LGBTQ+ Californians have benefited from the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline's LGBTQ+ Youth Specialized Services program since 2022.
   b) It is the intent of the Legislature to reinstate this program in California.

2) Requires the CHHSA to annually determine whether an adequate specialized LGBTQ+ suicide prevention hotline is activated by the federal government under 988.

3) Provides that Cal OES and the CHHSA shall implement the requirements of this bill only after the CHHSA has determined that the specialized hotline in 2)

above has not been activated.

4) Directs Cal OES, no later than six months after the CHHSA determination in 3) above, to request SAMHSA to enable, for calls originating in California, a "Press 3" function to allow callers to dial 988 and press "3" to be automatically routed to a specialized 988 call center.

5) Requires Cal OES to request authorization to enable text or chat features between a caller and a specialized 988 call center, as specified.

6) Requires the specialized 988 call center to be a qualified entity that meets specified requirements, including maintaining policies that comply with medical confidentiality laws, as specified.

7) Requires Cal OES, no later than 12 months following the approval by SAMHSA or its contracted administrator, to ensure that the required call, text, and chat technologies in 4) and 5) above are available.

8) Directs the CHHSA, no later than 12 months following approval from SAMHSA, to identify and contract with a qualified entity or entities that specialize in LGBTQ+ suicide prevention services.

9) Contains an urgency clause.

Background

988. According to SAMHSA, 988 is a phone, chat, and text service that provides free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or mental health related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S. The network consists of more than 200 local, independent, and state crisis centers staffed with skilled, trained crisis counselors. 988 offers specialized services for Spanish-language speakers and people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and connects veterans, service members, and their families to the Veterans Crisis Line for tailored support. 988 also uses Language Line Solutions to provide interpretation to callers in more than 240 additional languages.

In September 2022, Governor Newsom signed AB 988 to ensure and expand services for Californians experiencing a behavioral health crisis. When Californians dial 988, they are directed to one of 12 crisis call centers. The call is

routed based on the caller's area code. If a local crisis center is unable to take the call, the caller is automatically routed to a national backup crisis center.

The role of Cal OES. Cal OES is required to verify 988 technology allows for transfers between 988 centers as well as between 988 centers and 911 public safety answering points, commonly known as dispatch centers. Cal OES indicates that all 988 centers have the capability to transfer calls to other 988 centers and to and from 911 dispatch centers. Cal OES has validated this interoperability through controlled test calls and successful live transfers. According to Cal OES, these efforts confirm that both the technical capability and functional interoperability required under statute have been established.

Cal OES reports that it does not anticipate any impact on 988 and 911 interoperability related to deployment of the statewide Next Generation (NG) 911 system. According to Cal OES, moving all dispatch centers to NG 911 from the existing legacy 911 system will further improve the ability of dispatchers to transfer and receive calls with 988 centers. Cal OES indicates that it also continues to work with 988 providers on their modernization and technology needs and will ensure any buildout of 988 technology sustains or improves compatibility with NG 911. Ongoing work will continue to focus on strengthening consistency and operational protocols across systems.

Federal Changes. Beginning in 2022, under a pilot program, pressing "3" after dialing 988 directed a caller to an LGBTQ+ specific crisis line. The federal government ended support for the 988 "Press 3" option on July 17, 2025, eliminating the service nationwide. According to a letter dated June 9, 2026, from SAMHSA, the federal 2026 Labor and Health and Human Services Appropriations Act directs SAMHSA to restore $33.1M for Specialized Services for LGBTQ+ Youth, including the 988 "Press 3" option. Specifically, SAMHSA is required to provide specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth, including training for existing counselors in LGBTQ+ youth cultural competency and the establishment and operation of an Integrated Voice Response to transfer LGBTQ+ youth to a specialty organization. SAMHSA notes in the letter that it "is currently assessing the most appropriate approach to implementing this congressional directive for the "Press 3" option….[and] regardless, the 988 Lifeline will continue to serve all callers, providing 24/7 access to skilled, caring, and culturally competent crisis counselors for individuals experiencing suicidal, substance use, or mental health crises."

This bill establishes a process to restore the 988 "Press 3" option in California,

contingent upon an annual specified determination by the CHHSA.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Cal OES estimates initial costs of $1.79 million and $791,000 ongoing to support 3.0 permanent positions (988 State Suicide and Behavioral Health Crises Services Fund (988 Fund)). This estimate includes a one-time cost of up to $1 million for telecommunications infrastructure. Total costs will ultimately depend on the number of 988 centers established to meet statewide demand.

- According to CHHSA, the agency intends to delegate the bill's implementation to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). DHCS estimates total costs of $6.11 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-28 and $4.00 million annually ongoing (988 Fund), which includes:
    - Contracting: $4 million initially and $2 million ongoing to integrate the bill's requirements into current 988 processes, and to support specialized routing, training, reporting, and performance standards for statewide consistency across 988 crisis centers.
    - Personnel: $2.11 million in FY 2027-28 and $2.00 million ongoing for 12.0 permanent personnel years (PYs). DHCS reports that these additional resources are required for an expanded workload that existing staff cannot absorb. These new responsibilities include managing the application, selection, and funding process for qualified entities; providing contract oversight, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement; integrating the "Press 3" option into the existing 988 framework while ensuring alignment with 911 and mobile crisis services; and conducting the legal analysis required to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Staff notes that the 2026-27 Budget Act augments funding and provides 8.0 PYs to DHCS to support 988 California and implementation of the Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum (988 Fund). Specifically, it allocates $25.9 million in FY 2026-27, $25.8 million annually from FY 2027-28 through FY 2029-30, and $4.4 million annually ongoing

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Alliance of Child and Family Services (co-sponsor)
Equality California (co-sponsor)

Alameda County Office of Education
All for Kids
Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
Alliance for Children's Rights
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Cal Voices
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
California Association of School Psychologists
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California Democratic Party Rural Caucus
California Family Resource Association
California Federation of Teachers
California Fire Chiefs Association
California League of United Latin American Citizens
California Primary Care Association
California School-Based Health Alliance
California Youth Empowerment Network
Child Abuse Prevention Center
City of Alameda
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
County of Santa Clara
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Culver City Democratic Club
Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
Disability Rights California
Drug Policy Alliance
El/La Para TransLatinas
Fire Districts Association of California
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Health Officers Association of California
Hillel of San Diego
Hmong Innovating Politics
Indivisible CA: StateStrong
Jewish California
Jewish Center for Justice

Jewish Community Center Federation of San Luis Obispo
Jewish Community Relations Council Santa Barbara County
Jewish Community Relations Council Bay Area
Jewish Community Relations Council Jewish Long Beach
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Democratic Club of Marin
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Long Beach and Orange County
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jewish Silicon Valley
John Burton Advocates for Youth
LGBTQ+ Inclusivity, Visibility, and Empowerment
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Los Angeles Unified School District
Lyon-Martin Community Health Services
Mental Health America of California
Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness California
National Center for Youth Law
National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco
National Health Law Program
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays San Jose/Peninsula
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Prevent Child Abuse California
Safe Kids California
San Diego LGBT Community Center
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Seneca Family of Agencies
Simon Wiesenthal Center

United Nations Association of California
Viet Voices

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Family Council
California Teachers Supporting Gender Non-Conforming Youth
Californians United for Sex-Based Evidence in Policy and Law
Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender
International Foundation for Therapeutic and Counselling Choice
Lesbians Advocating for a Resilient Future
LGB Alliance USA Foundation
Our Duty-USA
Save Glendora Schools
Women Are Real

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the co-sponsors, California Alliance of Child and Family Services and Equality California write that, "Given the disproportionate risk of suicide for LGBTQ+ individuals, queer youth need and deserve specialized suicide prevention services. AB 1540 provides a much-needed solution by re-establishing the 988 "Press 3" program that successfully helped many LGBTQ+ individuals before the federal government eliminated the program. AB 1540 also incorporates amendments to ensure that the State will not duplicate efforts, should the federal government restart the "Press 3" line nationally. AB 1540 is a life-saving bill, ensuring that all LGBTQ+ youth in California, once again, have access to critical and lifesaving suicide and crisis intervention."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In opposition to this bill, Our Duty-USA writes that, "The federal government's decision to end LGBTQ+-specialized routing reflects a policy judgment that all callers in crisis should receive the same evidence-based crisis intervention services rather than being sorted by identity category. Whether one agrees with that policy or not, California's response should be to strengthen general 988 infrastructure for all youth in crisis, not to recreate an ideologically directed subnetwork that routes minors to organizations whose primary mission is LGBTQ+ affirmation."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-8, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon,

Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Gallagher, Hoover, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Cassie Royce / E.M. /
8/15/26 13:49:15

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1542
Author: Ward (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-2, 6/22/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Jones, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-19, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Sensitive personal information

SOURCE: Consumer Reports
California Initiative for Technology & Democracy

DIGEST: This bill prohibits the selling or sharing of "sensitive personal information", as specified, pursuant to the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 allow commercial credit reporting agencies to sell a consumer's social security number, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CCPA, which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict the sale or sharing of information; and protection

from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.100 et seq.)

2) Provides a consumer the right, at any time, to direct a business that sells or shares personal information about the consumer to third parties not to sell or share the consumer's personal information (Civ. Code § 1798.120.)

3) Defines "personal information" as information that identifies, relates to, describes, is reasonably capable of being associated with, or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly, with a particular consumer or household. (Civ. Code § 1798.140(v).) The CCPA defines and provides additional protections for sensitive personal information, as defined, that reveals specified personal information about consumers, including precise geolocation, genetic data, and immigration status. (Civ. Code § 1798.140(ae).)

4) Requires businesses that collect consumers' sensitive personal information to inform consumers of the categories of sensitive personal information to be collected and the purposes for which the categories of sensitive personal information are collected or used, and whether that information is sold or shared. (Civ. Code § 1798.100(a)(2).)

5) Affords consumers the right, at any time, to direct a business that collects sensitive personal information about the consumer to limit its use of the consumer's sensitive personal information, as specified. A business that has received such direction shall be prohibited from using or disclosing the consumer's sensitive personal information for any other purpose after its receipt of the consumer's direction unless the consumer subsequently provides consent for the use or disclosure of the consumer's sensitive personal information for additional purposes. Sensitive personal information that is collected or processed without the purpose of inferring characteristics about a consumer is not subject hereto and shall be treated as personal information for purposes of all other sections of the CCPA. (Civ. Code § 1798.121.)

6) Establishes the California Privacy Rights Act of 2020 (CPRA), which amends the CCPA and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy), which is charged with implementing these privacy laws, promulgating regulations, and carrying out enforcement actions. (Civ. Code § 798.100 et seq.; Proposition 24 (2020).) Permits amendment of the CPRA by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature and the signature of the Governor, provided such amendments are consistent with and further the purpose and intent of this act as set forth therein. (Proposition 24 § 25 (2020).)

7) Provides that a business need not comply with the CCPA to the extent it restricts the business's ability to carry out certain conduct, including to cooperate with law enforcement. (Civ. Code § 1798.145(a).)

8) Provides that a business does not sell or share personal information when a consumer uses or directs the business to intentionally disclose personal information or interact with one or more third parties. (Civ. Code § 1798.140.)

This bill prohibits a business, service provider, or contractor from selling or sharing the sensitive personal information of a consumer to a third party, except that a commercial credit reporting agency may sell a consumer's social security number to the extent the agency uses that information solely to identify the relationship of a consumer to a business that the consumer owns.

Background

The CCPA grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including the right to restrict the sale of information. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. The CPRA created a new category of "sensitive personal information" and afforded consumers enhanced rights with respect to that information, including the ability to restrict businesses' use and disclosure of that information. This category includes data such as precise geolocation information and immigration status.

Given the heightened sensitivity of this information and the widespread weaponization and commodification of it, this bill prohibits the selling or sharing of sensitive information by a business, service provider, or contractor to a third party, subject to relevant provisions of the CCPA, except as provided.

This bill is sponsored by Consumer Reports and the California Initiative for Technology & Democracy (CITED). This bill is supported by many privacy, consumer, labor, and other advocacy organizations, including Equality California and the California Federation of Labor Unions. This bill is opposed by industry associations, including the Association of National Advertisers and ATA Action. For a more thorough analysis, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis of this bill.

Comments

The mass collection of consumer data as an asset is not new, but has rapidly expanded beyond just targeted advertising. This commodification of personal information has been dubbed "surveillance capitalism" by social psychologist, Shoshana Zuboff:

> As we move into the third decade of the 21st century, surveillance capitalism is the dominant economic institution of our time. In the absence of countervailing law, this system successfully mediates nearly every aspect of human engagement with digital information. The promise of the surveillance dividend now draws surveillance economics into the "normal" economy, from insurance, retail, banking and finance to agriculture, automobiles, education, health care and more.[1]

Companies gather data through multiple channels, including purchase history, browsing behavior, location tracking, demographic information, social media activity, and even biometric data. This information gets fed into sophisticated algorithms that create detailed consumer profiles. With the rise of data brokers, the concerns are only further exacerbated:

> Data brokers operate within a multibillion-dollar industry built on the collection and sale of detailed personal information—often without individuals' knowledge or consent. These companies create extensive profiles on nearly every American, including highly sensitive data such as precise location history, political affiliations, and religious beliefs. This information is frequently resold for purposes ranging from marketing to law enforcement surveillance.
>
> Many people are unaware that data brokers even exist, let alone that their personal information is being traded.[2]

This bill responds to the privacy concerns raised by outright prohibiting the selling or sharing of sensitive personal information, as provided.

According to the author:

> With the rapid growth of the data broker industry, tech companies are quietly harvesting and selling detailed information about where people go—from protests and political gatherings to reproductive health clinics, places of worship, and shelters. Recent reports have revealed that federal agencies, including ICE, have purchased this data to

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[1] Zuboff, Shoshana, *You Are the Object of a Secret Extraction Operation* (November 12, 2021) The New York Times, **https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/12/opinion/facebook-privacy.html**. All internet citations are current as of August 11, 2026.

[2] Dell Cameron & Dhruv Mehrotra, *CFPB Quietly Kills Rule to Shield Americans From Data Brokers* (May 14, 2025) Wired, **https://www.wired.com/story/cfpb-quietly-kills-rule-to-shield-americans-from-data-brokers/**.

conduct surveillance and detain individuals—sidestepping legal safeguards and public accountability.

Californians should not have to worry that their sensitive personal information is being sold to the highest bidder. From precise location data to deeply personal information, AB 1542 draws a clear line—it puts the safety and privacy of everyday Californians first.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Enforcement costs of $536,000 in FY 2026-27 and $520,000 ongoing to the California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy). CalPrivacy estimates that the enforcement division will require one attorney position and one information technology specialist position to investigate and enforce the prohibition on selling and sharing sensitive personal information. Although CalPrivacy currently investigates the data sharing practices of businesses, this prohibition will likely lead to a larger universe of potential targets and an increased need for analysis about data flows. (General Fund)

Costs to the Department of Justice (DOJ), which shares enforcement authority with CalPrivacy, potentially of a similar amount. Actual costs will depend on the extent to which the Public Rights Division pursues enforcement actions. If DOJ hires staff to handle enforcement actions, DOJ would incur significant workload costs, likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. If DOJ does not pursue enforcement as authorized by this bill, it would likely not incur any costs.

Cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional filings. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose. (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/23/26)

California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a Project of California Common CAUSE (Source)
Consumer Reports (Source)
AAPIS for Civic Empowerment
ABINE, INC. Dba Deleteme
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
California Coalition for Worker Power
California Domestic Workers Coalition
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Health Coalition Advocacy
California Immigrant Policy Center
California National Organization for Women
California Privacy Protection Agency
California Work & Family Coalition
CALPIRG
Center for AI and Digital Policy
CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Chinese Progressive Association
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Consumer Attorneys of California
Courage California
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Electronic Privacy Information Center
End Child Poverty CA
Equal Rights Advocates
Equality California
Greenlining Institute
Greenlining Institute; the
Indivisible CA Statestrong
Jewish California
LGBT Tech
Nextgen California
Oakland Privacy
Para Los Ninos
Parent Voices California
Pilipino Workers Center
Privacy Defense Alliance
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
PWC
Reproductive Freedom for All
Secure Justice
SEIU California
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Tech Oversight California
TechEquity Action

Ultraviolet Action
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Women's Foundation California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/23/26)

American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Association of National Advertisers
Ata Action
California Chamber of Commerce
California Retailers Association
California's Credit Unions
Civil Justice Association of California
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Inmarket Media, LLC
Insights Association
Internet.works
Netchoice
Network Advertising Initiative
Software Information Industry Association
Technet

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A coalition of organizations, including Techequity Action, writes:

> Sensitive personal information reveals the most intimate parts of ourselves, including our immigration status, sexual orientation, location, political activities, genetic and health information, and even the contents of our communications. This type of data has been used by scammers to facilitate financial fraud, by retailers to generate predatory pricing schemes, and even by our own federal government to surveil individuals exercising their constitutional rights. It is imperative we protect the privacy rights of our communities, especially with increased attacks on immigrants, Black and Brown community members, LGBTQ people, and individuals seeking reproductive health care. California must take bold action to ensure individuals are protected and their sensitive personal information is kept private. AB 1542 answers this call.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of industry associations, including the California Chamber of Commerce, writes:

While AB 1542 would continue to permit certain disclosure of sensitive PI to service providers and contractors for permitted business purposes, when it comes to all other persons and entities – "third parties," – the bill would change the law from a "right to limit" model to a categorical prohibition. Again, under the CCPA, a third party is any "person" who is not the business with whom the consumer intentionally interacts and that collects PI (including SPI) from the consumer as a result of that current interaction with the business; a service provider to the business, or a contractor. In turn, a "person" is any individual, company, organization, or "group of persons acting in concert". Thus, in practice, AB 1542's ban on selling or sharing sensitive PI with third parties would significantly alter, if not constrain, several common and lawful business operations and even beneficial uses by other third parties—from business to nonprofits, to researchers, to political organizations, and government entities.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-19, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Patel, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Ávila Farías, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Carrillo, Gipson, Harabedian, Irwin, Krell, McKinnor, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Solache, Valencia, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 11:58:24

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1546
Author: Schultz (D), et al.
Introduced: 1/5/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Vehicles: driving under the influence

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill increases the punishment for a driving under the influence (DUI) conviction with two priors from a misdemeanor to a wobbler and increases the punishment for a DUI with four or more priors from a wobbler to a jail felony.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Makes it unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug, or who has 0.08% or more, by weight, of alcohol (BAC) in their blood, to drive a vehicle (hereafter, "DUI"). (Vehicle (Veh.) Code, § 23152, subds. (a), (b), (f), & (g).)

2) Establishes graduated penalties for a first DUI, DUI with one prior, DUI with two priors, and DUI with three or more priors, including jail time, fines, ignition interlock device (IID) installation, license suspension or revocation,

and completion of a DUI program. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, 13352.1, 23538, 23540, 23542, 23546, 23550, 23552, 23548, 23575.3.)

3) Requires a 10-year license revocation if a person has been convicted of three or more DUIs or DUIs causing bodily injury, the last of which was punishable as a DUI or DUI causing bodily injury with two priors, a DUI with three or more priors, or as an alternate-felony misdemeanor because of a prior specified felony. (Veh. Code, § 23597, subd. (a).)

4) Makes it unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or the combined influence of the two, or who has a BAC of .08 or more, to drive a vehicle, and concurrently do any act forbidden by law or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver (hereafter, "DUI causing bodily injury.") (Veh. Code, § 23153 subds. (a), (f), & (g).)

5) Establishes graduated penalties for a first DUI causing bodily injury, DUI causing bodily injury with one prior, and DUI causing bodily injury with two or more priors, including jail or prison time, fines, IID installation, license suspension or revocation, and completion of a DUI program. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, 23554, 23556, 23560, 23562, 23566, 23568, 23575.3.)

6) Provides that a person who proximately causes bodily injury or death to more than one victim in any one instance that results in a felony conviction of a DUI causing bodily injury, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, or vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, shall receive a one-year sentence enhancement in state prison for each additional victim injured (maximum of three). (Veh. Code, § 23558.)

7) Punishes a person convicted of a DUI causing bodily injury, where the violation proximately causes great bodily injury to any person other than the driver, and the offense occurred within 10 years of two or more priors, as a felony by imprisonment for two, three, or four years in state prison, a $1,015 to $5,000 fine, and a five-year license revocation (Veh. Code, §§ 23566, subd. (b), 13352 subd. (a)(6).)

8) Provides that if a person is convicted of the above offense, and the underlying offense occurred within 10 years of four or more priors, there shall be an additional punishment of three years in state prison, which shall be served in

addition and consecutive to the sentence imposed above. (Veh. Code, § 23566, subd. (c).)

9) Makes any DUI or DUI causing bodily injury (hereafter, "any DUI") an alternate felony-misdemeanor if that person has previously been convicted of certain impaired driving crimes:

10) Punishes a person convicted of any DUI within 10 years of specified felonies – a DUI with three or more priors, a DUI causing bodily injury, or gross vehicular manslaughter – as an alternate-felony misdemeanor, a $390 to $1,000 fine, a four- or five-year license revocation (including a three-year designation as a habitual traffic offender), and a three- or four-year IID mandate. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, subd. (a)(6)-(7); 23550.5, subds. (a), (c) & (d); 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)-(2).)

11) Punishes a person convicted of any DUI, who has a prior conviction for felony vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, as an alternate felony-misdemeanor, a fine of $390 to $1,000, a four- or five-year license revocation, and a three- or four-year IID mandate. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352 subd. (a)(6)-(7); 23550.5, subds. (b), (c) & (d); 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)-(2).)

12) Requires the court, if a person is convicted of a DUI or a DUI causing bodily injury, to consider a BAC of .15% or more, or a person's refusal to take a breath or urine test, as a special factor that may justify enhancing the penalties in sentencing, in determining whether to grant probation, and, if probation is granted, in determining additional or enhanced terms and conditions of probation. (Veh. Code, § 23578.)

13) Requires the prosecutor, if the prosecution agrees to a plea of guilty or no contest to reckless driving in satisfaction of, or as a substitute for, an original charge of a DUI—also known as a wet reckless—to state for the record a factual basis for the satisfaction or substitution, including whether or not there had been consumption of an alcoholic beverage or ingestion or administration of a drug, or both, by the defendant in connection with the offense. Provides that a wet reckless is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for 5 to 90 days, or by a fine of $145-1,000, or both. (Veh. Code, §§ 23103, subd. (c); 23103.5, subd. (a).)

14) Requires a court to advise a person convicted of a DUI or a DUI causing bodily injury, or who pleads to a reckless driving conviction in satisfaction of, or as a

substitute for an original DUI charge, of the following: "You are hereby advised that being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, impairs your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Therefore, it is extremely dangerous to human life to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both. If you continue to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or both, and, as a result of that driving, someone is killed, you can be charged with murder." (Veh. Code, § 23593, subd. (a).)

15) Provides that any person who personally inflicts great bodily injury on any person other than an accomplice in the commission of a felony or attempted felony shall be punished by an additional and consecutive term of imprisonment in the state prison for three years. (Pen. Code, § 12022.7, subd. (a).)

16) Defines "great bodily injury," for purposes of the enhancement statute, as a significant or substantial physical injury. (Pen. Code, § 12022.7, subd. (f)(1).)

17) Prohibits the application of the great bodily injury enhancement to murder or manslaughter. Provides that the great bodily injury enhancement shall not apply if infliction of great bodily injury is an element of the offense. (Pen. Code, § 12022.7, subd. (g).)

This bill:

1) Increases the punishment for a person convicted of a DUI with two priors within 10 years of the current offense, from a misdemeanor to a wobbler, punishable either as a misdemeanor by imprisonment for 120 days to one year in county jail or as a jail-eligible felony by 16 months, two years, or three years, and by a fine of $390 to $1,000.

2) Increases the punishment and associated criminal sanctions for a person convicted of a DUI with four or more priors within 10 years of the current offense, as follows:

   a) Increases the punishment from a wobbler to a jail felony, punishable by 16 months, two years, or three years, and by a fine of $390 to $1,000.
   b) Extends the license revocation period from four years to five years, as specified.
   c) Extends the IID installation mandate from three years to four years.

3) Clarifies that the punishment and associated criminal sanctions that apply to a DUI with three or more priors apply only to a DUI with three priors.

Background

According to the most recent annual report on DUIs published by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), there were 110,017 DUI arrests in 2021. (DMV, *32nd Annual Report of the California DUI Management Information System* (Oct. 2025), summary statistics available at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/file/32nd-annual-report-dui-management-information-system-pdf .) For DUI arrests made in 2020, 74.7% of DUI convictions were for first-time DUIs, 19.2% for second-time DUIs, 4.6% for third-time DUIs, and 1.4% for fourth or subsequent DUIs. (*Id*. at p. 30.)

Alcohol-Involved Traffic Fatalities. Alcohol- and drug-impaired driving contribute significantly to traffic deaths and injuries in California. According to the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), 1,355 people were killed in alcohol-involved traffic crashes in 2023 in the state. (OTS, *California's Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025* (Mar. 2026), p. 8 <https://www.ots.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2026/03/FY_2025_Annual_Report_Final.pdf ; OTS, *California Traffic Safety Quick Stats* available at <https://www.ots.ca.gov/ots-and-traffic-safety/score-card/ .) After a decade of increasing alcohol-involved crash fatalities, the latest data suggest this trend may be reversing. Like other fatal crashes, alcohol-involved crash fatalities decreased in California 4.5 percent between 2022 and 2023. (OTS, *Annual Report*, *supra*, at p. 8.)

Alcohol- and drug-involved crash fatalities (hereafter, "DUI crash fatalities"), which have historically comprised a significant portion of total crash fatalities, peaked at 2,065 in 2005, before declining to a multi-decade low of 1,416 in 2010. (DMV, *DUI Summary Statistics* <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv-research-reports/research-development-data-dashboards/dui-management-information-system-dashboards/dui-summary-statistics/ .) While DUI crash fatalities have steadily increased since then, DUI crash fatalities comprise an increasingly smaller proportion of total crash fatalities. In 2013, DUI crash fatalities were responsible for 54.7% of all crash fatalities. (*Ibid*.) That percentage dropped to 41.7% in 2021—the lowest proportion of total crash fatalities since 2001. (*Ibid*.)

This bill changes the state's DUI laws in two ways. First, it increases the punishment for a person convicted of a DUI with two priors from a misdemeanor to wobbler, punishable either as a misdemeanor by imprisonment for 120 days to

one year in county jail or as a jail felony by 16 months, two years, or three years, and by a fine of $390 to $1,000. Effectively, this gives prosecutors discretion to charge a person's third DUI within 10 years as a felony.

Second, it increases the punishment and associated sanctions for a DUI with four or more priors. A DUI with three or more priors may currently be punished as a wobbler. (Veh. Code, §§ 23550, subds. (a), (b).) This means that a person convicted of their fourth, fifth, or sixth DUI in ten years can still be charged with a misdemeanor. This bill makes a DUI with four or more priors a jail felony, punishable by imprisonment for 16 months, two years, or three years, and by a fine of $390 to $1,000. In other words, this change eliminates the misdemeanor option for the most serious category of repeat DUI offenders.

Additionally, this bill increases the associated license revocation term and IID installation term for a DUI with four or more priors. As previously noted, a conviction for a DUI with three or more priors results in four-year license revocation and a three-year IID mandate. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, subd. (a)(7); 23550; 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)(D).) This bill extends the license revocation period for a DUI with four or more priors from four years to five years, as specified, and extends the IID installation mandate for this offense from three years to four years.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Potentially major costs to the counties to incarcerate if punishment increases from a one year misdemeanor sentence to a wobbler or to a jail felony punishable by 16 months, two years, or three years and by a fine of $390 to $1,000. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $80,000. In 2021 Los Angeles County budgeted $1.3 billion for jail costs with $90,000 per incarcerated person. Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

Potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate new penalties. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would increase pressure to fund additional staff and resources. The

FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Implementation will require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to make modifications to its core legacy information technology systems to create new court suspensions and update driving records accordingly. DMV is undertaking an enterprise modernization project, and resources are fully committed to the project. Coordinating implementation of this bill within the project could delay implementation and/or increase costs by requiring the services needed to be built outside the core legacy system.

The Motor Vehicle Account (MVA), the primary funding account for the DMV and the California Highway Patrol, is facing insolvency. The LAO has noted that, "Until a plan is put in place to address MVA's structural deficit, we recommend the Legislature set a high bar for considering approval of any proposals that create additional MVA cost pressures and accelerate the risk of insolvency." The proposed Governor's FY 2026-2027 Budget currently projects that the MVA will be insolvent as soon as FY 2028-29.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Contract Cities Association
California District Attorneys Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
City of Norwalk
City of Thousand Oaks
League of California Cities
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Safety and Advocacy for Empowerment
Streets for All

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

ACLU California Action
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Public Defenders Association
Debt Free Justice California

Initiate Justice
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union, Local 148

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bryan, Chen, Elhawary, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/14/26 10:09:25

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1555
Author: Hadwick (R), et al.
Amended: 8/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/3/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 8/20/26
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/4/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Community colleges: exemption from nonresident tuition fee: College of the Siskiyous

SOURCE: College of the Siskiyous

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the College of the Siskiyous to (1) exempt all or some of its nonresident tuition fee for 200 students per academic year residing in specified counties in Oregon and (2) claim state apportionment funding for students qualifying for an exemption of nonresident tuition fees.

Senate floor amendments of 8/25/26 add language to avoid chaptering out issues with the section amended by this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Community Colleges (CCCs), a postsecondary education system in this state, under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG), and specifies that the CCC system consists of community college districts (CCDs). (Education Code (EC) § 70900)

2) Authorizes the CCC BOG to enter into an interstate attendance agreement with any statewide public agency of another state that is responsible for public institutions of postsecondary education providing the first two years of college instruction, and that is an agency of a state that is a member of Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), which is a regional interstate higher education compact between 15 states in the western United States. (EC § 66801)

3) Authorizes a CCD to admit nonresident students and requires that these students be charged a tuition fee, with specified exemptions, and requires that CCDs use one of several statutorily outlined options for the calculation of the nonresident tuition fee. (EC § 76140)

4) Exempts no more than 200 students in any academic year from paying all or part of nonresident tuition fees if they attend the Lake Tahoe CCD and reside in specified communities in the State of Nevada. (EC § 76140)

5) Exempts, until January 1, 2028, no more than 150 full-time equivalent students (FTES) from paying all or part of nonresident tuition fees if they are low income students who are residents of Mexico who register for lower division courses at specified community colleges near the California-Mexico border and who reside within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border. (EC § 76140)

6) Prohibits nonresident students from being reported as FTES for state apportionment purposes, except for specified instances, which include: (1) the CCD has fewer than 1,500 FTES, is within 10 miles of another state, and has a reciprocity agreement with that state or participates in the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) through WICHE; (2) if a CCD has between 1,501 and 3,000 FTES, is within 10 miles of another state, and has a reciprocity agreement with that state or participates in WICHE, the CCD can claim up to 100 FTES for state apportionment purposes; (3) the exemption for 200 students per academic years provided for Lake Tahoe CCD as specified in #4 above; and

(4) the exemption provided for 200 students per academic year who are Mexican residents living near the California-Mexico border specified in #5 above. (EC § 76140)

7) Provides that specified nonresident students exempted from paying nonresident tuition may be reported as resident FTES for purposes of state apportionment and are required to pay 1.5 times the amount of the fee established for residents. (EC § 76140)

This bill:

1) Authorizes the College of the Siskiyous to exempt all or some of its nonresident tuition fee for 200 students per academic year residing in the Oregon counties of Jackson County, Josephine County, and Klamath County.

2) Authorizes the College of the Siskiyous to claim state apportionment funding for students qualifying for an exemption of nonresident tuition fees and requires the College of the Siskiyous to charge these students a per-unit fee that is one and one-half times the fee for residents.

3) Requires that the governing board for the College of the Siskiyous adopt rules and regulations for determining a student's residence classification and for establishing procedures for an appeal and review of the residence classification.

4) Requires that a student will be determined to have residence in one of the specified Oregon counties if they have lived in the county for more than one year immediately before seeking the nonresident tuition fee exemption.

5) Requires that residence be determined pursuant to existing laws for the determination of student residence, as specified.

6) Adds language to avoid chaptering out issues with the section amended by this bill.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "along the California-Oregon border, residents see themselves not as Californians or Oregonians, but as one cross-border community. Residents of this bi-state community in Siskiyou County interact daily with neighboring Oregon communities for work, healthcare, commerce, and education. Recent data indicates 90 percent of community college students go to

college within 50 miles of their home. The CoS provides workforce programs that South Oregon University and nearby colleges cannot meet. … However, Oregon applicants face significantly higher costs due to nonresident tuition and the total cost of college—often paying up to ten times more than California residents.

The author continues, "Assembly Bill 1555 allows the CoS to enroll Oregon students as in-state students. … Current law already authorizes the Lake Tahoe Community College District to enroll an unlimited number of nonresident Nevada students in Lake Tahoe Community College as resident full-time equivalent students."

College of the Siskiyous' proximity to the California-Oregon border. The College of the Siskiyous, located in Weed, is the northern-most CCC in the system and therefore the closest to the California-Oregon border. The next closest CCC is Shasta College, which is located roughly 70 miles to the south in Redding.

The Oregon border is about 50 miles, or an hour, to the north of College of the Siskiyous. Josephine County, Jackson County, and Klamath County—the three counties specified in this bill—are three counties on the southern Oregon border. According to the college, these counties were selected for this bill based on past enrollment trends at the college. In academic year 2025-26, the College of the Siskiyous enrolled 61 students from these specific counties and 112 students from Oregon in total.

Student housing at College of the Siskiyous. The College of the Siskiyous currently has co-ed student housing for 154 residents and are single, double, or triple occupancy. According to the college, roughly 60% of students living in the college's current student housing are Oregon residents.

In addition, the 2022 Budget Act awarded a $32.6 million grant to College of the Siskiyous to construct new student housing as part of the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program. As of May 2026, the 161-bed student housing project is scheduled to be completed in 2028, with the anticipation of a soft launch in spring 2028.

Reciprocity agreements and exchanges. The WUE is a program coordinated by the WICHE, and through the WUE, students from participating western states and territories from the WICHE may apply to enroll in college programs at a reduced tuition level. Existing law permits the College of the Siskiyous to annually serve a maximum of 100 FTES through WUE, which includes students from Oregon as

well as other western states. Currently, the College of the Siskiyous serves 50 FTES from Oregon through WUE.

In addition, the College of the Siskiyous has a reciprocity agreement with the state of Oregon, called the Oregon Exchange, that allows the college to admit up to 50 eligible students who are Oregon residents to attend the college at a discounted rate. The reciprocity agreement also includes offering in-state tuition to eligible California residents attending College of the Siskiyous and seeking to transfer to, and attend, Southern Oregon University or Oregon Institute of Technology. Currently, the College of the Siskiyous serves 50 students through the Oregon Exchange.

For both of these agreements in the 2025-26 school year, students pay $69 per unit (which is 1.5 times the resident fee) at the College of the Siskiyous instead of the out-of-state tuition of $338 per unit.

Similar exemptions provided in recent years. SB 605 (Gaines, Chapter 657, Statutes of 2015) provided a nearly identical statutory exemption for students residing in specified communities in Nevada from paying nonresident tuition fees while attending Lake Tahoe CCD, with a sunset date of July 1, 2022. SB 436 (Dahle, Chapter 573, Statutes of 2021) removed the sunset date for the specified exemption for Lake Tahoe CCD.

In addition, AB 91 (Alvarez, Chapter 796, Statutes of 2023) exempts a maximum of 150 FTES from paying all or part of their nonresident tuition fees if they are low income students who are residents of Mexico who register for lower division courses at specified community colleges near the California-Mexico border and who reside within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border. This exemption is provided until January 1, 2028.

This bill seeks a similar exemption for students residing in specified communities in Oregon from paying nonresident tuition fees while attending the College of the Siskiyous.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 91 (Alvarez, Chapter 796, Statutes of 2023) exempts, until January 1, 2029, from the non-resident tuition fee, a non-resident, low-income student who is a resident of Mexico, registers for lower division courses at specified community colleges near the California-Mexico border, as defined, and has residence within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border.

AB 1998 (Smith, Chapter 495, Statutes of 2022) (1) authorizes the CCC BOG to enter into the WUE through WICHE; (2) allows small CCDs located near a bordering state to charge a lower tuition rate to out-of-state students from WUE participating states; and, (3) decreases the per-unit fee for eligible resident students from three to one and one-half times the amount established for resident students.

SB 436 (Dahle, Chapter 573, Statutes of 2021) removes the sunset date of provisions in current law, authorizing Lake Tahoe CCD to waive non-resident tuition fees and claim apportionment for a limited number of students residing in specified communities in the State of Nevada (in the Lake Tahoe Basin), thereby making the authorization permanent.

SB 605 (Gaines, Chapter 657, Statutes of 2015) exempts persons residing in specified communities in the State of Nevada from paying non-resident tuition fees if they attend Lake Tahoe CCD until July 1, 2022.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The Chancellor's Office indicates that this bill would not result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures since the College of the Siskiyous is already authorized to exempt nonresident students from the nonresident tuition fee and report these students as resident FTES for state apportionment purposes. Staff notes that to the extent the bill results in an increase in students above the statutory cap, this could lead to additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs under the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). However, such increases may be funded through future SCFF growth budget allocations.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

College of the Siskiyous (source)
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Community College League of California
Fairchild Medical Center
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/4/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Gipson, Lee

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 9:20:51

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1556
Author: Haney (D)
Amended: 8/3/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Recovery housing: funding

SOURCE: Bay Area Council
Mayor Daniel Lurie, City and County of San Francisco

DIGEST: This bill codifies recovery housing eligibility for state homelessness funds provided the program complies with, among other specifications, the core components of Housing First.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "recovery housing", for purposes of specified funding programs administered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, as meeting the following requirements:

a) A recovery housing program participant shall sign an agreement upon entry that outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the participant and the program administrator to ensure individuals are aware of actions that could result in removal from the recovery housing program. Violations of the agreement shall not automatically result in discharge from the recovery housing program.

b) Efforts to link program participants to alternative housing options, including interim sheltering, permanent housing, or transitional housing, shall be documented. If a recovery housing program participant chooses to stop living in a housing setting with a recovery focus, is discharged from the program, or is removed from housing, the program administrator shall offer assistance accessing other housing and services options, including options operated with harm-reduction principles, and identifying an alternative housing placement.

c) The program administrator shall offer program participants who inform the program administrator that they are leaving the program one or more housing ore service options, as specified.

d) Specified annual reporting to track use of funding, including individuals service, demographics, and outcome data.

2) Establishes the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) with the purpose of coordinating the state's response to homelessness by utilizing Housing First practices. Requires agencies and departments administering state programs created on or after July 1, 2017, to incorporate the core components of Housing First. Defines "Housing First" to mean the evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery and that centers on providing or connecting homeless people to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

3) Defines, among other things, the "core components of Housing First" to mean:

a) Acceptance of referrals directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response systems frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.

b) Supportive services that emphasize engagement and problem-solving over therapeutic goals and service plans that are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals.

c) Participation in services or program compliance is not a condition of permanent housing tenancy.

d) Tenants have a lease and all the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, as specified.

e) The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction.

4) Establishes the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP) to provide funds to help local jurisdictions combat homelessness.

This bill:

1) Defines "recovery housing" as the same definition in (1) of the existing law section above, except that recovery housing shall extend to all state agency or housing funds for purposes of providing emergency shelter, interim housing, permanent housing, or housing-based services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, as specified. Applicants for state homelessness funding for recovery housing shall demonstrate the availability of a range of interventions within the jurisdiction, including harm-reduction-focused permanent housing.

2) Provides that a recovery housing program may be eligible for state funding if it meets all of the following requirements:

a) Satisfy the core components of Housing First.

b) Use substance use-specific, peer support, and physical design features that support individuals and families on a path to recovery from substance use disorders.

c) Emphasize abstinence.

d) Offer tenants permanent housing or program participants interim housing.

e) Provide nonclinical services that are participant driven and tailored to participant needs and facilitates voluntary access and linkages to licensed treatment providers and services.

f) Unless participation in recovery housing is court ordered, residency is initiated by the tenant or program participant the program participant is

offered at least one harm-reduction housing placement option and the resident chooses a recovery housing program instead of housing offering a harm-reduction approach.

g) Relapse is not, unless there is another lease violation, grounds for eviction from recovery housing and residents receive relapse support.

h) Support, and does not prevent or restrict, a resident's access to, or use of, medications prescribed for behavioral or physical health conditions, as specified.

i) Provide emergency preparedness and overdose prevention and response training to staff and residents and make overdose reversal medication available and readily accessible to staff and residents onsite.

j) Adopt and maintain a written return-to-use policy that is approved by an organization currently recognized as an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) for consistency with NARR best practices, or other similar entity. The return-to-use policy shall include all of the following:

   i) A clear articulation of the recovery housing's policy on the possession and use of alcohol, cannabis, and other controlled substances.

   ii) Contact information for treatment providers, mutual aid supports, and recovery coaches that can be contacted for additional support.

   iii) An explanation that the housing program's standard response to a resident's return to substance use will not be punitive in nature.

   iv) An explanation of the steps the housing program will take to address a resident's return to use.

   v) An explanation of actions by the resident that may result in eviction or discharge, including, but not limited to, repeated program violations.

   vi) An explanation that if a tenant of permanent housing or permanent supportive housing is no longer interested in living in the housing, or is at risk of eviction for violating the lease, the housing program shall allow the resident to reside in the housing until the operator secures the tenant another permanent housing placement option operated with harm-reduction principles that is also permanent housing and provides a

comparable level of supportive services. If the tenant rejects the offer of a housing placement option, the operator may evict the tenant.

vii) An explanation that if a program participant in an interim recovery housing program is no longer interested in living in the housing, or is at risk of discharge for violating the return-to-use policy, the housing program shall allow the program participant to remain in the residence until the operator secures the program participant placement in interim housing operated with harm-reduction principles that is also interim housing and provides a comparable level of supportive services. If the resident rejects the offer of another housing placement option, the operator may discharge the program participant.

k) Disclose applicable rules, behavioral expectations, participation requirements, and program policies to prospective residents or participants through lease agreements, intake materials, resident handbooks, program agreements, or other program documentation, as appropriate.

l) Requires the housing program to meet the requirements for a recovery housing program as defined in existing law.

3) Requires, if an unlawful detainer proceeding is initiated for an alleged violation of a lease provision agreement or program requirement, the housing program operator to submit documentation of the alleged lease violation to the local grantor of state funds. The local grantor shall submit a copy of the documentation and a summary of all alleged violations reported pursuant to this provision to the appropriate state agency that administers the housing funds, as specified.

4) Requires, if a program participant is discharged for an alleged violation of any program requirement, the facility operator to submit documentation of the alleged violation to the local grantor of state funds. The local grantor shall submit a copy of the documentation and a summary of all alleged violations reported pursuant to this provision to the appropriate state agency that administers the housing funds, as specified.

5) Provides that, for purposes of state and federal housing law, including, but not limited to, the federal Fair Housing Act and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, a recovery housing program is a housing provider and not a treatment facility solely on the basis of providing nonclinical services.

6) Provides that participation in recovery housing programs and eligibility for state or local funding shall not be conditioned on requiring the recovery housing to provide clinical treatment services.

Background

Homelessness: stats and causes. According to the most recent point in time (PIT) count, 187,084 people were experiencing homelessness in California—representing 24% of the nation's homeless population. Two-thirds of the homeless population in California is unsheltered. Over half (51%) of all unsheltered people in the United States were in California. A lack of affordable housing is the biggest contributor to homelessness. As housing costs continue to rise, rent becomes less affordable for lower-income households, who are forced to live beyond their means (paying more than 30% of income on housing costs) or are pushed out of their homes, leading to rapid increases in homelessness. The need for, and costs of, housing have consistently outpaced the development of affordable housing for over 30 years.

Seeing results. Despite the sobering data, California's state investments and policy decisions are working. From 2023-2024, the nation as a whole experienced an increase in homelessness eight times larger than the increase in California. During the same period, California had the largest reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the nation, with 1,279 fewer veterans experiencing homelessness on a single night in January in 2024 than in 2023 (8% reduction year over year). Furthermore, California had the largest reduction in the number of unaccompanied youths experiencing homelessness in the nation, with 1,121 fewer unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2024 than in January 2023. Additionally, individual jurisdictions reported decrease in homelessness.

According to the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (UCSF Benioff), the reason for the reduction in veteran (and likely youth given set-asides for this population in specific programs) homelessness in California is because California has adequately scaled the evidence-based responses which include Housing First, and housing subsidies paired with appropriate services. State funds have also allowed California's homeless response providers to serve more people than ever before; for example, in 2024, providers served 356,660 Californians, over 20,000 more Californians than in 2023, and in the first half of 2025, providers served 265,716 Californians, including: 176,101 individuals and 88,373 people in families with children, of which 38,496 were unaccompanied youth.

Comments

1) *Federal and state guidance regarding recovery housing.* Recovery housing is a model that is abstinence-focused and offers peer supports for people recovering from substance abuse issues. These homes are not licensed or regulated by DHCS or any other state or local government. After treatment for substance abuse, whether by prison, hospital-based treatment programs, or therapeutic communities, many patients return to former high-risk environments or stressful family situations. Returning to these settings without a network of people to support abstinence increases chances of relapse. As a consequence, alcohol and substance use recidivism following treatment is high for both men and women. Recovery housing offers participants an option to live with other abstinence-focused residents while being offered supports through the recovery process.

   The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidance for recovery housing or "sober living environment" (*e.g.*, the recovery housing programs contemplated in this bill) emphasizes the Housing First approach, but also recognizes the importance of providing "individual choice to support various paths towards recovery." Some people pursuing recovery from addiction express a preference for an abstinence-focused residential or housing program where they can live among and be supported by a community of peers who are also focused on pursuing recovery from addiction – environments that are provided by recovery housing programs. However, the HUD guidance states that supporting individual choice must also mean that a community is ensuring that housing options are available for people at all stages of recovery, including people who continue to use drugs or alcohol.[1] In other words, if a person chooses an abstinence-focused/sober living program and relapses, in order to comply with Housing First principles, the relapse alone should not be treated as an automatic cause for eviction or termination. Cal-ICH, the state's lead entity for coordinating state efforts to prevent and end homelessness, has provided similar guidance on how recovery housing can comply with Housing First core principles.[2]

[1] "Recovery Housing Policy Brief". (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 2015). **https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Recovery-Housing-Policy-Brief.pdf**
[2] **Housing First and Recovery Housing Cal ICH Guidance**

2) *If at first you don't succeed…* Despite clear federal and state guidance, the sponsors are seeking statutory changes to allow for recovery housing. The two prior attempts to do this were AB 2893 (Ward, 2024) and AB 255 (Haney, 2025), though only AB 255 reached the Governor's desk. AB 255 was vetoed by the Governor; the veto message noted that recovery housing is already permitted under current law and encouraged the stakeholders to work with his administration moving forward.

   This bill attempts to codify the Cal-ICH Recovery Housing guidance by incorporating the 4 key components identified in that guidance (*e.g.,* alignment with housing first principles, person-centered care and harm reduction, participant choice, and eviction protections). It also incorporates critical, evidence-based guardrails designed to keep people stably housed while on the path to recovery; namely, program participants must choose recovery housing, relapse without other lease violations shall not be grounds for eviction, and residents must receive relapse support. Should a resident choose to leave the program or is at risk of eviction, the resident shall reside at the program until another housing placement is secured by the operator. Any eviction proceedings shall be reported to the grantor of the state funds, along with documentation for the alleged violation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/10/26)

Bay Area Council (co-source)
Mayor Daniel Lurie, City and County of San Francisco (co-source)
A New Path (parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
California Coalition of Addiction Recovery Advocates
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
Circa Behavioral Healthcare Solutions
City and County of San Francisco
Clare|matrix
Community Social Model Advocates, INC.
County Behavioral Health Directors Association, (CBHDA)
Eden Housing
First Responder Wellness
J. Cole Recovery Homes INC.
Recovery in Action
San Francisco Marin Medical Society

Social Science Services, Inc., Dba Cedar House Life Change Center
Young People in Recovery

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/10/26)

Buccola Family Homeless Advocacy Clinic
Cd11 Coalition for Human Rights
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Drug Policy Alliance
Housing California
Housing Is a Human Right - Orange County
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Homelessness Law Center
Public Advocates
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Western Regional Advocacy Project

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "[a]lthough housing that does not require sobriety works for thousands of people who are not yet ready to enter recovery housing, it does not work for everyone. There are thousands of people who want, and need, to live in a drug-free recovery environment, but access to this type of housing remains limited. As a result, many people are forced to live in housing that is not best suited to their recovery journey, increasing the risk of relapsing, overdose, and homelessness. AB 1556 recognizes that drug-free recovery housing is a critical component of the Housing First model and ensures these programs can access state funding while maintaining the recovery environments residents and families depend on."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of homelessness organizations are opposed unless amended to this bill. They note that recent Cal-ICH guidance already allows the state to fund recovery housing that is consistent with existing California law, making this bill unnecessary. They are also seeking amendments to either codify the guidance directly, or modify the language with specific provisions to ensure consistency with existing Housing First laws.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra,

Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: DeMaio, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/12/26 16:18:48

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1560
Author: Tangipa (R), et al.
Amended: 8/12/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Lobbyist certification

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a conviction for a crime of public corruption.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/12/26 resolve chaptering conflicts with AB 2592 (Pacheco).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Regulates lobbyists through the Political Reform Act (PRA), including by requiring lobbying firms and lobbyist employers to register with the Secretary of State (SOS) and file periodic reports disclosing their activities.

2) Requires, as part of the registration process, that each lobbyist submit a lobbyist certification with the SOS. This certification shall include:

   a) A recent photograph;

   b) The full name, business address, and telephone number of the lobbyist;

c) A statement that the lobbyist understands the statutory gift limit; and

d) A statement that the lobbyist has or will complete an ethics course.

3) Specifies administrative, civil, and criminal penalties for violating provisions of the PRA, including making any person who knowingly or willingly violates the PRA guilty of a misdemeanor. Conviction of a misdemeanor under the PRA precludes a person from being a candidate for office or acting as a lobbyist for four years, unless the court at sentencing determines this provision is not applicable.

4) Prohibits a person from being a candidate for office or serving in elected office in California if the person has been convicted of a felony involving accepting, giving or offering to give any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of these crimes.

This bill:

1) Prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a felony conviction for a crime of public corruption, defined in 4) of existing law. If a person is already a registered lobbyist and is convicted of such a crime, then the person's certification as a lobbyist shall be void upon the conviction, and the lobbyist is required to terminate their registration immediately upon conviction.

2) Requires a lobbyist certification submitted to the SOS to include a statement that the lobbyist has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.

3) Prohibits the SOS from accepting a lobbying certification from a person who has indicated on the lobbying certification that they have been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.

Background

Proposition 9, which appeared on the June 1974 ballot, created the PRA and established California's system of regulating lobbying activity, campaign finance, and conflicts of interest for public officials. Proposition 9 created the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA. The PRA regulates lobbyists, including requiring lobbying firms and lobbyist employers to register with the SOS and file periodic reports disclosing their activities.

The PRA requires any person who qualifies as a lobbyist, and thus works for a lobbying firm or a lobbyist employer, to submit a lobbyist certification and include a recent photograph of the lobbyist. The SOS makes a list, with photographs, of all lobbyists publicly available on its website, which also provides lists of registered lobbying firms and lobbyist employers. The SOS publishes a directory of registered individual lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers.

Comments

Author's Statement. Public trust in government depends on accountability and integrity in the policymaking process. California law already recognizes that certain crimes of public corruption, including offenses involving the misuse or theft of public funds, are serious enough to prevent someone from running for public office for life. Yet under current law, those same individuals can still register as lobbyists and be paid to influence the decisions of the Legislature. That double standard undermines public confidence in government. This bill closes this loophole by prohibiting individuals convicted of public corruption from serving as lobbyists in California.

If someone has been convicted of corrupting the public process, they should not be allowed to profit from influencing it. This bill is a commonsense step to restore integrity, strengthen transparency, and ensure that Sacramento holds lobbyists to the same ethical standard expected of those who seek elected office.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/11/26)

Jerry P. Dyer, Mayor, City of Fresno
Nick Richardson, Fresno City Councilmember, District 6
California Common Cause
City of Bishop
County of Fresno Board of Supervisors
County of Inyo Board of Supervisors
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Fresno County District Attorney's Office

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Fresno County, the Fresno County District Attorney, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and the County of Inyo write in support of the bill:

> Over the years, our state has seen several high-profile cases in which individuals found guilty of public corruption-related charges continue working in an industry where public trust is essential. Allowing those facing such serious charges to lobby only encourages the problem. California cannot afford to let individuals with a record of unethical behavior influence policy and shape decisions that affect all Californians.
>
> [This bill] is a straightforward, common-sense reform that protects the integrity of our government. By keeping those with corruption charges out of the lobbying process, this bill will help to restore public trust, promote fairness, and ensure that decisions are guided by the public interest, not what benefits individuals with questionable morals.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Elhawary, Garcia, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, McKinnor, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Ward, Wilson

Prepared by: Carrie Cornwell / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/18/26 13:09:31

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1567
Author: Ta (R)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: General plan: annual report: congregate and residential care for the elderly

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill allows cities and counties to include congregate housing for the elderly and residential care facilities for the elderly in their annual progress report (APR) and allows those units to count toward a portion of the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address chaptering issues with SB 1116 (Caballero).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that each community's fair share of housing be determined through the housing element cycle, which is composed of three main stages:

a) The Department of Finance and Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) prepare a regional housing needs determination (RHND).

b) Councils of government (COGs) allocate the determined housing needs to local governments within the region through a regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) plan (where a COG does not exist, HCD makes the determinations).

c) Cities and counties incorporate their allocations into their housing elements.

2) Requires each city and county to adopt a housing element, which must contain specified information, programs, and objectives, including:

a) An assessment of housing needs and an inventory of resources and constraints relevant to the meeting of these needs.

b) A statement of the community's goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to affirmatively furthering fair housing and to the maintenance, preservation, improvement, and development of housing.
A program that sets forth a schedule of actions during the planning period, and timelines for implementation, that the local government is undertaking to implement the policies and achieve the goals and objectives of the housing element.

3) Requires each jurisdiction to submit an APR to its legislative body, HCD, and the Governor's Office of Land use and Climate Innovation (GO-LUCI) by April 1 of each year that includes specified information, including progress in meeting its share of the regional housing need, a list of sites rezoned to accommodate allocation for each income level that could not be accommodated on sites identified in the housing element's sites inventory, and the number of net new units of housing that have been issued a completed entitlement, building permit, or certificate of occupancy and the income category that each unit satisfied.

This bill allows a city or county, beginning with the 7th housing element cycle, to include the number of units approved for congregate housing for the elderly and residential care facility for the elderly for up to 15% of the jurisdiction's RHNA for any income category, provided that these units were considered in the RHND applicable to the city or county.

Background

Housing Elements and RHNA. Each community's general plan must include ahousing element, which outlines a long-term plan for meeting the community's existing and projected housing needs. The housing element demonstrates how the community plans to accommodate its "fair share" of its region's housing needs. Following a staggered schedule, cities and counties located within the territory of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) must revise their housing elements every eight years, and cities and counties in rural non-MPO regions must revise their housing elements every five years. These five- and eight-year periods are known as the housing element planning period.

Before each revision, each community is assigned its fair share of the region's housing need for four separate income categories (very low-, low-, moderate-, and above-moderate income households) through a two-step process known as RHNA. In the first step, HCD determines the aggregate housing need for the region during the planning period the housing element will cover. In the second step, the COG for the region allocates the regional housing need to each city and county within the region. The COG must come up with a regional housing needs plan, to further specific objectives such as affirmatively furthering fair housing, ensuring an equitable mix of housing throughout the region, and balancing jobs and housing.

In general, a housing element must identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs, identify adequate sites with appropriate zoning to meet its share of the RHNA, and ensure that regulatory systems provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development. Among other things, the element specifically must include an analysis of existing subsidized housing developments that are eligible to convert to market-rate rental housing upon the expiration of affordability restrictions, and identify all public resources.

As part of the process to identify adequate sites, a city or county first prepares an inventory of existing sites zoned for housing. When the inventory of existing sites is insufficient to accommodate the need for one or more income categories, the housing element must contain a program to rezone sites within the first three years of the planning period.

Each jurisdiction must submit an APR to HCD by April 1st of each year that documents its progress toward meeting its RHNA allocation and the plans outlined in its housing element.

Comments

Author's Statement. "Cities and counties are unable to count assisted living facilities towards their RHNA numbers; however, AB 1567 would encourage cities and counties to produce more assisted living as defined by Section 50062.5 of the Health and Safety Code, freeing up more homes to be available on the market for purchase by families. This is first and foremost a definition bill that authorizes the HCD to have a definition for assisted living for meeting RHNA goals for senior housing."

Permanent v. non-permanent units. Under current housing element law, RHNA only takes into account permanent units. However, non-permanent housing units, such as assisted living facilities and student dormitories may or may not be included depending on the type of housing unit offered. According to *California's Housing Future 2040: The Next Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)*, HCD recommends that the Department of Finance use a clear rule for categorizing developments that may include both group quarters and housing units. This bill attempts to address that recommendation by allowing congregate housing for the elderly and residential care facilities for the elderly to count for up to 15% of a jurisdiction's RHNA.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

HCD indicates that this bill would impose ongoing workload to collect, validate, and store reported data on congregate housing units or residential care facilities for the elderly, and provide technical assistance to local agencies, as well as one-time costs to update the housing element APR form and to update IT systems. HCD notes that there are multiple pending bills that would impact APR requirements, and that if several such bills are enacted, total costs would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Staff estimates that workload directly attributable to this bill would likely exceed $50,000, and could be as high as $150,000 if no other APR bills are enacted and HCD would still be responsible for one-time fixed costs to update forms and IT systems, and to provide ongoing data collection and technical assistance services.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

City of Camarillo
California Assisted Living Association
City of Buena Park

City of San Marcos

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Elhawary, Garcia, Jackson, Lackey, Lee, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Hank Brady / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 13:47:35

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1572
Author: Alanis (R), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Interscholastic Federation: officials: registration, certification, and eligibility verification

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to require its officials to annually register through a platform selected by the CIF to verify the official's eligibility to officiate CIF contests, which will, until July 1, 2028, include a statewide and standardized background screening and, commencing July 1, 2028, will include a record of a valid Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate (ASCC) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that the CIF is a voluntary organization that consists of school and school-related personnel with responsibility for administering interscholastic athletic activities in secondary schools. (Education Code (EC) § 33353)

2) Requires the CIF to report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature and the Governor on its evaluation and accountability activities on or before January 1, 2023, and on or before January 1 every seven years thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to, the goals and objectives of the CIF with regard to, and the status of, all of the following:

   a) The governing structure of the CIF, and the effectiveness of that governance structure in providing leadership for interscholastic athletics in secondary schools.

   b) Methods to facilitate communication with agencies, organizations, and public entities whose functions and interests interface with the CIF.

   c) The quality of coaching and officiating, including, but not limited to, professional development for coaches and athletic administrators, and parent education programs.

   d) Gender equity in interscholastic athletics, including, but not limited to, the number of male and female pupils participating in interscholastic athletics in secondary schools, and action taken by the CIF in order to ensure compliance with Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972 (20 United States Code (USC) § 1681 et seq.).

   e) Health and safety of pupils, coaches, officials, and spectators.

   f) The economic viability of interscholastic athletics in secondary schools, including, but not limited to, the promotion and marketing of interscholastic athletics.

   g) New and continuing programs available to pupil athletes.

   h) Awareness and understanding of emerging issues related to interscholastic athletics in secondary schools. (EC § 33353)

3) Authorizes a community youth athletic program to request state and federal level criminal history information from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) for a volunteer coach or hired coach candidate. (Penal Code § 11105.3)

4) Requires, commencing January 1, 2016, a community youth athletic program to provide written notice to the parent or guardian of any youth participating in the program regarding the program's policies relating to whether the program obtains criminal background checks for hired and/or volunteer coaches. Defines a community youth athletic program as an organization for which the primary purpose is the promotion or provision of athletic activities for youth under 18 years of age and which has adult employees who have supervisory or disciplinary power over children. (Business and Professions Code § 18900)

5) Requires any entity that has a contract with a local educational agency (LEA) to ensure that any employee who interacts with pupils, outside of the immediate supervision and control of the pupil's parent or guardian or a school employee, has a valid criminal records summary. Requires, when the contracting entity performs the criminal background check, the entity to immediately provide any subsequent arrest and conviction information it receives to any LEA that it is contracting with pursuant to the subsequent arrest service. (EC § 45125.1)

6) Requires all noncertificated candidates, prior to assuming a paid or volunteer position to work with pupils in a pupil activity program sponsored by a school district, to obtain an ASCC from the CTC. Indicates that a "pupil activity program" sponsored by a school district includes, but is not limited to, scholastic programs, interscholastic programs, and extracurricular activities sponsored by a school district or school booster club. (EC § 49024)

7) Requires the CTC to issue an ASCC to candidates serving in a specified position upon verification of the candidate's personal identification and verification that the candidate meets all specified professional requirements. (EC § 44258.7)

8) Requires that an ASCC be issued initially for a five-year period and may be renewed, and requires that the CTC establish a fee for the ASCC. (EC § 44258.7)

9) Excludes from the definition of an "employee" a person, other than a regular employee, performing services as a sports official, as defined, for an entity sponsoring an intercollegiate or interscholastic sports event, or any person

performing services as a sports official for a public agency, public entity, or a private nonprofit organization sponsoring an amateur sports event. Defines a "sports official" as including an umpire, referee, judge, scorekeeper, timekeeper, or other person who is a neutral participant in a sports event. (Labor Code § 3352)

This bill:

1) Requires the CIF to require its officials to annually register through a platform selected by the CIF to verify the official's eligibility to officiate CIF contests.

2) Requires the platform to consist of all of the following components:

   a) Until July 1, 2028, a statewide and standardized background screening, and commencing July 1, 2028, a record of a valid ASCC issued by the CTC, including the applicable expiration date.

   b) A record of rules tests, online training modules, sport-specific annual certifications, and continuing education requirements.

   c) A record of liability insurance coverage.

3) Requires, commencing July 1, 2028, that the CTC regularly publish a list on its internet website of ASCC holders who have their certificate suspended or revoked by CTC.

4) Requires the CIF, through its chosen platform, to verify that all specified components are complete before an official is deemed and marked as eligible to receive an assignment to officiate.

5) Requires that CIF complete the specified verification annually until July 1, 2028, and requires, commencing July 1, 2028, that the CIF maintain the platform and, as part of the verification requirement, ensure that the chosen platform regularly reviews the list published by the CTC in order to update the eligibility of the officials whose ASCC has been suspended or revoked.

6) Authorizes that only officials who are deemed eligible in the selected platform be assigned to CIF contests by assignors or officiating associations.

7) Requires the CIF to ensure that its participating member schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools can access the platform to verify the eligibility of an official, but shall not have access to the sensitive information in each individual component of the platform.

8) Prohibits the CIF from being considered an employer of officials.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "AB 1572 is necessary to ensure that California's student athletes compete in safe, fair, and well-regulated environments. By establishing a consistent standard for CIF officials, we can give schools and parents confidence that officials assigned to games are qualified and accountable. This measure will also promote greater transparency and consistency across leagues, reducing uneven enforcement of rules. Ultimately, it strengthens the integrity of high school athletics and reinforces a commitment to protecting the well-being of every student athlete."

CIF's structure and role in interscholastic athletics. The CIF, founded in 1914, is a voluntary organization consisting of over 1,600 public, public charter, and private high schools and over 750,000 student-athletes, for the purpose of governing education-based athletics in grades 9 through 12. Almost all public and private high schools in California are CIF members. The CIF is organized under the California Department of Education (CDE), and CDE has allowed the CIF to regulate interscholastic athletics and be the rulemaking body for these programs.

The CIF consists of ten regional sections, each of which is divided into several local leagues, for purposes of developing sports, scheduling athletic contests, and assigning referees. Each league elects a representative to their respective CIF section's governing body, which is called a Board of Managers or Council. Each CIF section's governing body elects officers, establishes section policies, develops section playoff sports and schedules, and CIF members adhere to these rules and regulations adopted by their section.

This bill creates requirements for game officials for CIF contests, and game officials are not considered employees of CIF or schools. This bill requires officials to annually register for a platform selected by the CIF to verify the official's eligibility to officiate CIF contests, including having done fingerprinting and a criminal background check as well as that official having liability insurance coverage.

Existing law excludes sports officials from being considered employees of an entity sponsoring an interscholastic sports event, or any person performing services as a sports official for a public agency or public entity, and according to CIF, these sports officials are considered independent contractors. There are associations of officials and referees that are accredited by CIF and organized by region and sport, and as mentioned above, CIF consists of ten regional sections, which are divided into local leagues, and the local leagues assign referees and officials to CIF games. These officials are paid and generally have liability insurance coverage, either individually or through an officials' or referees' association.

CIF is rolling out a similar statewide eligibility program for officials. In July 2025, CIF launched a new statewide registration and eligibility process for all high schools called the CIF Officials Registration Program. Officials can pay $29 to register through a platform to begin the process of becoming CIF-eligible, and the system will streamline background checks, standardize qualifications, and simplify access to cost effective insurance coverage through a centralized structure. The program is voluntary in 2025-26 and will become mandatory beginning in 2026-27. This bill creates a very similar process, with the notable exception of requiring officials to obtain an ASCC from the CTC, which is considered a higher level of screening than a background check. According to CIF, other states have similar systems for game officials, including Massachusetts, Illinois, and New Jersey.

What is an ASCC? When AB 1572 was introduced, the bill required CIF to require that its officials who have undergone a background screening would be deemed eligible to receive an assignment to officiate. The most recent version of this bill ensures a greater level of security screening for officials and requires CIF, starting July 1, 2028, to require that its officials have a record of a valid ASCC issued by the CTC before being deemed and marked as eligible to receive an assignment to officiate.

According to the CTC, an individual obtaining an ASCC from the CTC must obtain fingerprint clearance through a criminal background check completed by the DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This is considered a higher level of screening than a background check. Existing law already requires non-certificated individuals, prior to starting a paid or volunteer position working with pupils in a student activity program sponsored by the school district or county office of education, to obtain an ASCC from the CTC.

The sole purpose of the ASCC is to provide verification that the holder has completed the professional fitness review before being placed in a position

working with pupils in a pupil activity program, and a pupil activity program may include interscholastic programs. Here are a few features of the ASCC as it relates to the implementation of this bill:

- The ASCC is not limited to one employing agency but may be used in all California public school districts, which makes it a valuable certification for game officials working across multiple school districts.

- The CTC charges a $100 fee on a rolling five-year basis for the ASCC.

- In renewing the ASCC, if an individual maintains their certificate and renews in a timely manner, they would not need to repeat fingerprinting.

- The initial fingerprinting allows the CTC to continuously receive official criminal history records in the case that a certificate holder is arrested.

- According to the CTC, when there are no delays in fingerprint information being received, and no flags on an applicant's background that require investigation, ASCC applications are granted within 10 business days from receipt. However, if there is misconduct that needs to be investigated, processing may take longer, and timing depends on the specific investigation.

- According to CIF, this bill delays the requirement that game officials obtain an ASCC from January 1, 2027 to July 1, 2028 because that gives additional time for CIF to ensure that their platform interfaces with CTC's list of ASCC holders who have their certificate suspended or revoked. In the meantime, game officials would still be required to receive a statewide and standardized background screening.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 465 (Bonilla, Chapter 146, Statutes of 2013) specifically provides that a community youth athletic program can request state and federal level criminal history information from the DOJ for a volunteer or paid coach.

AB 346 (Conway, Chapter 52, Statutes of 2010) provides that the requirement to obtain an ASCC is applicable to a paid or volunteer position to work with pupils in a pupil activity program sponsored by a school district.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The CTC estimates General Fund costs of $625,000 each year to hire additional analytical and legal staff to manage the additional screenings, case intake, and misconduct caseload.

- The costs for the CIF to oversee the registration platform and verification process are expected to be minor and absorbable.

- The Department of Justice does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Association of Private School Organizations
California Interscholastic Federation
California Teachers Association
Informed Policy Advocates
Schools Excess Liability Fund

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Jackson, Lackey, Lee, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:38:00

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1575
Author: Arambula (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act

SOURCE: The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

DIGEST: This bill updates terminology throughout the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act).

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 cleanup language used throughout the Welfare and Institutions Code and other relevant code sections and reinstate codified language that would have been struck or amended by this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Lanterman Act, which states that California is responsible for providing a range of services and supports sufficiently complete to meet the needs and choices of each person with developmental disabilities, regardless of age or degree of disability, and at each stage of life, and to support their integration into the mainstream life of the community. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] § 4500 et seq.)

2) Defines "developmental disability" as a disability that originates before an individual attains 18 years of age, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for that individual. As defined by the Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in

consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, this term shall include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. This term shall also include disabling conditions found to be closely related to intellectual disability or to require treatment similar to that required for individuals with an intellectual disability, but shall not include other handicapping conditions that are solely physical in nature. (WIC § 4512(a)(1))

3) Adds criteria for a child under five years of age who does not meet the definition of developmental disability under (2) to receive regional center services:

   a) Provides that a child who is under five years of age shall be provisionally eligible for regional center services if the child has a disability that is not solely physical in nature and has significant functional limitations in at least two areas of major life activity, as specified. Provides that a child is not required to have one of the developmental disabilities listed in (2) to be provisionally eligible. Provides that a child who is provisionally eligible shall be reassessed at least 90 days before turning five years of age, and the child must meet the definition of developmental disability set forth in (2) to continue to be eligible for regional center services at five years of age.

   b) Provides that an infant or toddler referred for early intervention services may be concurrently assessed, if appropriate, to determine whether the infant or toddler is provisionally eligible for regional center services or eligible for regional center services if they have a developmental disability pursuant to (2). If the regional center determined that the infant or toddler qualifies for early intervention services from the regional center but has not been found to have a developmental disability pursuant to (2) or to be provisionally eligible, the regional center shall assess the child at least 90 days prior to the date that they turn three years of age for purposes of determining their eligibility for regional center services. If the regional center determines the child is not eligible, the regional center shall give adequate notice, as specified. (WIC § 4512(a)(2–4))

4) Defines “consumer” as a person who has a disability that meets the definition of developmental disability. (WIC § 4512(d))

5) Establishes a system of nonprofit regional centers, overseen by DDS, to provide fixed points of contact in the community for all persons with developmental disabilities and their families to coordinate services and supports best suited to them throughout their lifetime. (WIC § 4620)

This bill:

1) Updates the word "consumer" to "person eligible for regional center services" throughout the Lanterman Act when referring to a person found eligible for and/or receiving regional center services.

2) Updates the word "consumer" to "person seeking services from a regional center" throughout the Lanterman Act in sections related to intake where a person has not yet been assessed for eligibility for regional center services.

3) Updates the following terms throughout the Lanterman Act:

   a) Changes "native language" to "preferred language".

   b) Changes "state hospital" to "developmental center".

   c) Changes "hospital director" to "developmental center director".

   d) Changes "patient" to "resident" of a state institution.

   e) Changes "the developmentally disabled" to "people with developmental disabilities".

4) Provides that any section of any act enacted by the Legislature during the 2026 calendar year that takes effect on or before January 1, 2027, that amends, renumbers, adds, or repeals a section included in this bill shall prevail over this bill, whether that act is enacted before or subsequent to the enactment of this bill.

Background

Purpose of the Bill. According to the author, "Adults with disabilities continue to experience discrimination in education, employment, and healthcare settings. These challenges predictably result in reduced access to care and more limited opportunities, creating an often inescapable cycle of frustration for families trying to navigate the system. Shifting away from the use of harmful language will help in eliminating this stigma. AB 1575 updates the Lanterman Act to ensure consistent use of person-first language, emphasizing each person's humanity and moving away from stigmatizing language."

Lanterman Act. In 1969, the Lanterman Act established that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have a right to receive the necessary services and supports required to live independently in the community. The Lanterman Act enumerates the rights of individuals with developmental

disabilities, as well as the rights of their families, what services and supports are available to these individuals, and how regional centers and service providers work together to provide these services and supports. The term "developmental disability" is defined as a disability that originates before a person reaches 18 years of age, is expected to continue indefinitely, and is a significant disability for the individual. Such disabilities include, among others: epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and cerebral palsy.

In addition to establishing the rights of individuals, the Lanterman Act also created California's regional center system, comprised of 21 nonprofit regional centers throughout the state whose primary purpose is to connect individuals with services in the community. The Department of Finance estimates that approximately 487,114 individuals will receive developmental services in 2025–26, increasing to 526,848 in 2026–27.

Person-First and Identity-First Language. Person-first or people-first language refers to a person before describing their disability or condition. Person-first language is meant to humanize the person and de-stigmatize their condition. Some examples of person-first language include: person with autism, person experiencing homelessness, or person with a substance use disorder. Identity-first language refers to a person's identity first. Identity-first language is preferred by some self-advocates and disability advocates because it recognizes the identity as an inherent part of the person. Some examples of identity-first language include: Autistic person, Deaf person, or Indigenous person. While there is no one-size-fits-all choice between person-first or identity-first language across all groups and identities, advocates and experts agree that offensive and othering language should not be used. Examples include outdated or condescending terms or descriptions, slurs, using adjectives as nouns (nominalization), and language that implies deficiency or restriction.

Social Science & Medicine, a journal that publishes peer-reviewed original research, published an article in December 2024 entitled "Person-first and identity-first disability language: informing client centered care". The article was based upon a survey of 875 people, ages 14 to 89, on their self-reported health condition and use of person-first and identity-first language. The researchers published the following findings, among others:

- 94.4% of participants were aware of person-first and identity-first language.
- When referring to oneself, 42.4% of participants preferred identity-first language, while 34.1% of participants reported using person-first language, and 23.7% used both interchangeably.

- When referring to others, 39.4% of participants reported using person-first language, while 26.6% of participants reported using identity-first language, and 34.0% used both interchangeably.

- People who reported using person-first language were more likely to be older, while people who reported using identity-first language were more likely to be younger.

- Preference for person-first versus identity-first language varied by disability. The survey included the following disability categories: nervous system, neurodevelopmental, developmental anomaly, mental health, musculoskeletal, hearing, digestive, pain, vision, and other/undisclosed.

The article concluded that use of person-first language appears to be more appropriate than identity-first language for all settings, including healthcare, education, media, the general public, and among people with a disability or health condition. The article also described an "ingroup-outgroup" phenomenon where identity-first language may be acceptable among people with a disability or health condition but less acceptable when used by third parties.

This bill replaces the term "consumer" throughout the Lanterman Act with "person eligible for regional center services" or "person seeking services from a regional center". This bill also replaces "the developmentally disabled" with "people with developmental disabilities".

Comments

This bill adopts person-first language by changing the term "consumer" throughout the Lanterman Act to "person eligible for regional center services", or "person seeking services from a regional center" when a person's eligibility has not yet been assessed. According to this bill sponsor, the term "consumer" implies a commercial relationship between a person and the developmental services system, which is not a proper representation of services and supports provided under the Lanterman Act. This bill would not affect a person's eligibility for, or receipt of, services and supports under the Lanterman Act. This bill also updates other terminology in the Lanterman Act, such as changing "native language" to "preferred language".

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 162 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 47, Statutes of 2024), a budget trailer bill, amended the definition of "developmental disability" to allow a regional center to

concurrently assess an infant or toddler referred for early intervention services for provisional eligibility or full eligibility for regional center services.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration (source)
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
California Disability Services Association
California Respite Association
Manos

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 12:05:16

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1581
Author: Ramos (D) and Patel (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

PRIOR SENATE VOTES NOT RELEVANT

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupils: data reporting: American Indian and Alaska Native pupils

SOURCE: Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), beginning on July 1, 2028, to annually post statewide aggregate educational outcome data for the prior school year for American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) pupils, as defined, on the CDE's website, including, but not limited to, the number of pupils, the academic achievement of pupils, and the rate of suspension, expulsion, and chronic absenteeism of pupils.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes a longitudinal data system known as the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) to:

   a) Provide school districts and the CDE access to data necessary to comply with federal reporting requirements.

   b) Provide a better means of evaluating educational progress and investments over time.

c) Provide local educational agencies (LEAs) with the data needed to improve pupil achievement, including college and career readiness.

d) Provide an efficient, flexible, and secure means of maintaining longitudinal statewide pupil level data between and among the state's educational segments and operational tools, as defined.

e) Facilitate the ability of the state to publicly report data.

f) Ensure that any data access provided to researchers, as required, is provided only to the extent that the data access is in compliance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. (Education Code (EC) § 60900)

2) Requires, pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, specified LEAs to consult with appropriate officials from American Indian tribes or tribal organizations approved by the tribes located in the area served by the LEA prior to its submission of a required plan or application for a covered program under the Act. (United States Code, Title 20 § 7918)

3) Establishes the California American Indian education centers program to serve as community-based educational resource centers for American Indian pupils, parents, guardians, and public schools in order to promote the academic and cultural achievement of American Indian pupils. (EC § 33381)

4) Encourages LEAs to form California Indian Education Task Forces with California Indian tribes local to their region or tribes historically located in the region. (EC § 33391)

5) Requires the CDE, by June 1, 2022, in collaboration with, and subject to the approval of, the executive director of the State Board of Education, to use specified funding to enter into a contract with a county office of education (COE) or a consortium of COEs for the purposes of developing a model curriculum related to Native American studies by September 1, 2025. Requires that the model curriculum be housed on the platform developed and maintained by the California History-Social Science Project. (EC § 51226.9)

This bill:

1) Defines "pupils", for purposes of this bill, as pupils who identify as AI/AN only, and pupils who identify as AI/AN in addition to another race or ethnicity.

2) Requires the CDE, beginning with July 1, 2028, to post statewide aggregate educational outcome data for the prior school year for AI/AN pupils, as specified, on CDE's website every year on July 1, which includes:

   a) The number of pupils.

   b) The academic achievement of pupils, as determined by quantitative data currently collected.

   c) The rate of suspension and expulsion of pupils.

   d) The rate of chronic absenteeism of pupils.

   e) The four- and five-year cohort graduation rates of pupils.

3) Requires CDE to use data, where appropriate, reported pursuant to existing law to meet the requirements of this bill.

4) Makes findings and declarations related to the importance of accurate identification of AI/AN pupils in California.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "Due to federal guidelines, California is undercounting almost 90% of its Native American students. That is a grave and obscenely ridiculous undercount of a population that is severely underserved. The undercount results in inadequate allocation of resources to serve these students with the culturally responsive programs they need to succeed and thrive in school and broader community. Our state should not continue a centuries-old tradition of neglect or worse to its First People. By requiring this report, we can utilize an inclusive count of Native students on important metrics which could help inform policy decisions."

2) *A 2023 report highlighted issues with accurate representation of AI/AN national and state pupil data, which is collected and reported based on federal guidelines and standards.* A 2023 report by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Indigenous Education State Leaders Network (IESLN)—called "Indigenous Students Count: A Landscape Analysis of

American Indian and Alaska Native Student Data in U.S. K–12 Public Schools"—found that though Indigenous students in the country are estimated to be about 1% of the K–12 student population in public schools, the "undercounting of Indigenous students may be as high as 70% nationwide." The author has indicated that this bill is aimed at addressing the findings of this report.

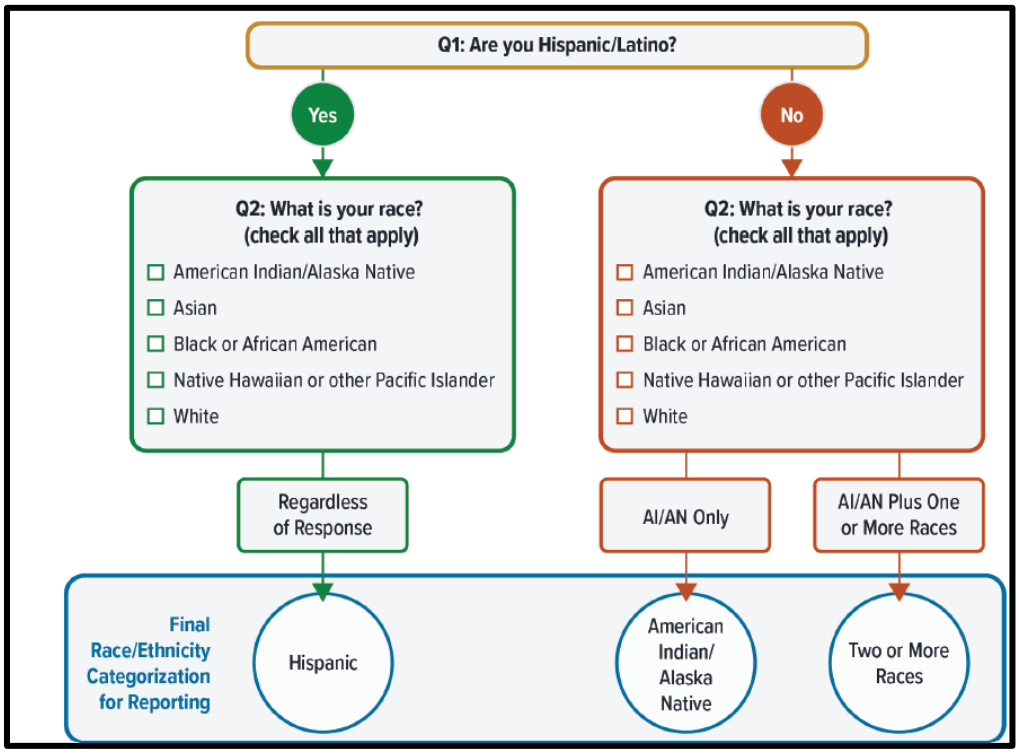
3) *Report focuses on two issues for accurately representing AI/AN pupils in national and state data.* The AIR and IESLN report states that in the K–12 public education system, race and ethnicity data are collected and reported using guidelines adopted by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in 2007 and aligned with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) 1997 standards. Specifically, in 1997, the OMB introduced the following format known as the "two-part question":

   - Are you Hispanic or Latino?
   - What is your race? (check all that apply)

   The report indicates two primary mechanisms for which AI/AN pupils are underrepresented in national and state data (see the graphic below from the report for a visual representation of this undercount):

   - For a parent or guardian of a pupil answering "yes" to the first part of the "two-part question", then *the pupil is considered Hispanic or Latino regardless of how they answer the question about race*. This means an AI/AN pupil who also identifies as Hispanic or Latino is included as part of the count of Hispanic or Latino pupils and is not recorded as AI/AN in demographic data.

   - For a parent or a guardian of a pupil answering "no" to the first part of the "two-part question", but identifying two or more races, then *the pupil is considered in the "two or more races" category only.* This means a pupil who identifies their race as both AI/AN and White is part of the count of multi-racial pupils and is not recorded as AI/AN in demographic data.



The report indicates that a more "inclusive" definition of AI/AN would count students who are indicating that their race is AI/AN, even if they are also indicating they are Hispanic or Latino or if they identify as multi-racial.

4) *The federal government planned changes in March 2024 to its collection and reporting of federal data on race and ethnicity, but implementation has stalled under the current Administration.* Beginning in June 2022, the OMB began working on a set of revisions to its Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15), which are its standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting federal data on race and ethnicity, to develop recommendations for improving the quality and usefulness of federal race and ethnicity data. These revisions would be the first to SPD 15 since 1997. By March 2024, the OMB published key revisions to SPD 15, including:

   a) Using one combined question for race and ethnicity (instead of the "two-part question"), and encouraging respondents to select as many options as apply to how they identify.

   b) Adding Middle Eastern or North African as a new minimum category. (The new set of minimum race and/or ethnicity categories would be: AI/AN; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and White.)

c) Requiring the collection of additional details beyond the minimum required race and ethnicity categories for most situations, to ensure further disaggregation in the collection, tabulation, and presentation of data when useful and appropriate.

One of the primary goals of SPD 15 is to ensure consistent and comparable race and ethnicity data across the federal government. To help meet that goal, the revisions to SPD 15 instruct federal agencies to begin updating their surveys and administrative forms as quickly as possible, and federal agencies were given until 2029 to adopt these changes, ahead of the 2030 Census. However, according to the CDE, guidance that the USDE had intended to send to state educational agencies in September 2025 was indicated to be delayed due to the federal shutdown. It is currently unclear when CDE and other state educational agencies will receive updated guidance on SPD 15 from the federal government, which would govern data collection and reporting of these data, especially given the significant reductions in force at USDE and the President's plans to abolish the department.

Moreover, according to a December 2025 article from National Public Radio, the OMB stated that the Administration has started a new review of the SPD 15 standards and how the 2024 revisions were approved, signaling the possibility that the Administration may not adopt the 2024 revisions to SPD 15 for federal government data more broadly.

5) *Federal guidelines ultimately dictate how race and ethnicity data is collected by the states.* The author identifies an important issue regarding how AI/AN data is counted and how the current rules aggregating the data can lead to a misrepresentation or underrepresentation of AI/AN data, especially given how that data informs federal program allocations.

Due to federal guidelines on how states must collect and report data related to race and ethnicity, the State of California is limited in how it can address this problem from a data collection and reporting standpoint, specifically. Federal guidelines exist, in part, because of a desire for the data to be comparable across states and to build a national dataset with all states using the same standards. The AIR and IESLN report highlights a national problem that points to federal requirements as its root cause, not a problem that is specific to what the state is doing or that the state could fix on its own. If the State of California decided to deviate from federal guidelines (i.e., not ask the "two-part question"), the state

would be out of compliance, which could put federal funds for CDE at risk. Absent changes at the federal level, state legislation would not be able to ultimately change how these data are collected and reported to address the underrepresentation of AI/AN pupils that is referenced in the 2023 report.

However, even if data collection and reporting is subject to federal guidelines, CDE and districts can still look at underlying data to shine a light and report on data using other definitions of race and ethnicity data, including for AI/AN pupils. This bill attempts to do that by requiring CDE to post statewide aggregate educational outcome data for AI/AN pupils, by using a revised definition of AI/AN pupils that is considered more inclusive.

For an example of how this may work, AI/AN pupils—whose data is currently reported to the federal government as Hispanic or Latino or as multi-racial—would be included in the CDE's annual post of statewide educational outcome data on AI/AN pupils, which would be more consistent with the recommendations of the 2023 report.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee on the version of this bill amended on March 23, 2026:

The CDE estimates General Fund costs of $610,000 each year and 4.0 positions for data collection, the ongoing monitoring and management of tribal information within CALPADS, and providing ongoing technical assistance to LEAs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/26)

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (source)
California Charter Schools Association
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Rancho Santiago Community College District
SEIU California
Yurok Tribe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/26/26 19:51:42

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1586
Author: Ramos (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Opioid overdose reversal medication: school resource officers

SOURCE: California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires school resource officers (SRO), commencing with the 2027–28 school year, and at least every two years thereafter, to complete opioid overdose recognition and response training that is approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) or the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC); (2) clarifies existing authorizations and liability protections for SROs to administer emergency opioid antagonists to persons believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose; (3) requires SROs to annually report on opioid antagonist usage, as specified; and (4) requires California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to submit a report to the Legislature on the SRO reported information.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires county offices of education (COEs) to purchase and distribute at least two units of emergency opioid antagonists to each middle school, junior high school, high school, and adult school schoolsite within their jurisdiction. Requires at least two staff members per schoolsite be trained to administer emergency opioid antagonists. (Education Code (EC) § 49414.8)

2) Authorizes school districts, COEs, and charter schools to provide naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist to school nurses or trained personnel who have volunteered, as specified, and authorizes school nurses or trained personnel to use naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose. (EC § 49414.3)

3) Requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to establish minimum training standards for the administration of naloxone or another opioid antagonist, and refresh those standards as necessary, every 5 years. Requires that training to include the following:

   a) Techniques for recognizing symptoms of an opioid overdose.

   b) Standards and procedures for the storage, restocking, and emergency use of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist.

   c) Basic emergency follow up procedures, including, but not limited to, a requirement for the school or charter school administrator or, if the administrator is not available, another school staff member to call the emergency 911 telephone number and to contact the pupil's parent or guardian.

   d) Recommendations on the necessity of instruction and certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

   e) Written materials covering specified information. (EC § 49414.3)

4) Authorizes each public and private elementary and secondary school in the state to voluntarily determine whether or not to make emergency naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist and trained personnel available at its school. Requires schools, in making this determination, to evaluate the emergency medical response time to the school and determine whether initiating emergency medical services is an acceptable alternative to naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist and trained personnel. (EC § 49414.3)

5) States that a volunteer who has received specified training and administers naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist, in good faith and not for compensation, to a person who appears to be experiencing an opioid overdose shall not be subject to professional review, be liable in a civil action, or be subject to criminal prosecution for his or her acts or omissions in administering the naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist. (EC § 49414.3)

6) Encourages COEs to establish a County Working Group on Fentanyl Education in Schools for the purposes of outreach, building awareness, and collaborating with local health agencies regarding fentanyl overdoses. (EC § 49428.16)

7) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to curate and maintain on its website, information on opioid overdose awareness and safety advice, the provision of opioid antagonists, and the statewide programs related to naloxone hydrochloride distribution. (EC § 49428.16)

8) Requires schools serving pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include within its comprehensive school safety plan (CSSP), a protocol in the event a pupil is suffering or is reasonably believed to be suffering from an opioid overdose. (EC § 32282)

9) Requires any school police officer first employed by a K–12 public school district to successfully complete a basic course of training before exercising the powers of a peace officer. Requires POST to prepare a specialized course of instruction for the training of school peace officers to meet the unique safety needs of a school environment and for such officers to complete the specialized training within two years of the date of first employment. (Penal Code (PEN) § 832.3)

10) Provides that any peace officer employed by a K-12 public school district who has completed training as prescribed shall be designated a school police officer. (PEN § 830.32)

This bill:

1) Requires, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, an SRO, upon assignment to a schoolsite, and at least every two years thereafter, to complete opioid overdose recognition and response training that is approved by POST or BSCC.

    a) Authorizes the inclusion of the training requirement above into existing POST continuing professional training requirements or BSCC standards and training for corrections.

2) Clarifies that a trained SRO may volunteer to administer an opioid antagonist to a person who appears to be experiencing an opioid overdose, pursuant to existing statute.

3) Provides that an SRO who, while assigned to a schoolsite, administers an opioid antagonist in good faith and not for compensation, to a person who appears to be experiencing an opioid overdose constitutes the rendering of emergency care. Provides that an SRO or the entity employing or contracting with the SRO shall not be liable in a civil action or be subject to criminal prosecution for the SRO's acts or omissions in administering the opioid antagonist, unless an act or omission of the SRO constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct connected to the administration of the opioid antagonist.

4) Requires POST, in consultation with CDE, to provide implementation guidance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and law enforcement agencies on accessing opioid antagonists at low or no cost and integrating overdose response into school safety planning.

5) Requires an SRO to report all of the following information to the CDPH, on or before July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter until July 1, 2030:

   a) The number of units of opioid antagonists they received.

   b) The number of times the SRO administered an opioid antagonist while serving at a schoolsite.

   c) The number of times the SRO needed an opioid antagonist but did not have one available.

   d) The types of opioid antagonists received and administered.

   e) The name and contact information of the SRO and individual completing the form.

   f) Schoolsite information, including the name of the school, the LEA, and the city and county where the school is located.

6) Requires the CDPH to post the data reported pursuant to items a) to c) of #5 above on the CDPH's internet website to ensure the data is publicly accessible.

7) Requires the CDPH, on or before January 1, 2031, to submit a report to the Legislature, as specified.

8) Authorizes the provisions of this bill to be implemented using existing state and local resources, including but not limited to the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) administered by the DHCS, opioid settlement funds, federal grants, and private or philanthropic donations to procure opioid antagonists and support opioid overdose recognition and response training.

9) Establishes the following definitions for the purposes of this bill:

   a) "Local educational agency" means a school district, COE, or charter school serving pupils in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

   b) "Opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration that, when administered, negates or neutralizes in whole or in part the pharmacological effects of an opioid in the body, and has been approved for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

   c) "School resource officer" means an individual who is a peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, and who is employed by, or contracts with, an LEA, city, county, or other law enforcement agency to act in a school assignment.

   d) "Schoolsite" means an individual school campus of an LEA or an area where a school-sponsored activity of an LEA is currently being held.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "School Resource Officers have been a crucial part of our students' safety. Ensuring that they have naloxone on hand and are properly trained to use it will provide schools with someone on site who can safely intervene when an incident occurs. Because every minute counts, making sure more people have access to this life saving drug is essential to protecting our students."

2) *Opioids and naloxone.* According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain. Opioids such as oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, and methadone may be prescribed by a physician. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain reliever that is many times more powerful than other opioids and is approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. Illegally made and distributed fentanyl has been on the rise in several states. Heroin is an illegal opioid. Symptoms of opioid intoxication may include confusion or delirium, very slow breathing, extreme sleepiness, vomiting, and small pupils.

According to the DHCS, naloxone is a life-saving medication that reverses an opioid overdose while having little to no effect on an individual if opioids are not present in their system. Naloxone works by blocking the opioid receptor sites and reversing the toxic effects of the overdose. It has few known adverse effects and no potential for abuse. Naloxone is administered when an individual is showing signs of opioid overdose. The medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscularly (into the muscle), subcutaneously (under the skin), or by intravenous injection.

3) *Addressing fentanyl among K-12 students.* According to the CDPH, fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased by 625% among ages 10-19 from 2018 to 2020, and there were 177 fentanyl-related overdose deaths, and 1,165 opioid-related overdose emergency department visits among youth ages 10 to 19 years old in 2022. State statute requires the SPI to establish minimum training standards for school employees who volunteer to administer naloxone or another opioid antagonist. In addition to setting minimum training standards, the CDE must maintain on its website, a clearinghouse for best practices in training nonmedical personnel to administer naloxone or another opioid antagonist to pupils.

   The CDE, in conjunction with the CDPH, also provides LEAs with resources and information that they can readily share with parents and students to help keep them safe. The shareable Fentanyl Awareness and Prevention toolkit page offers information about the risks of fentanyl and how to prevent teen use and overdoses. In addition to the toolkit, the CDPH's Substance and Addiction Prevention branch also provides resources for parents, guardians, caretakers, educators, schools, and youth-serving providers.

4) *School resource officers*. SROs are members of a school district police department or officers assigned to a school site by a local law enforcement agency. SROs are sworn peace officers who have successfully completed a minimum of 800-1,200 hours of training in a police academy program in order to initially qualify as a peace officer and to carry firearms. The decision of whether to employ an SRO and how many SROs an LEA chooses to employ is a determination made at the local level. Current law in California requires SROs to take additional POST-developed and certified training on topics specific to law enforcement in an educational setting.

   Beyond the training required for basic peace officer and SRO certification, state statutes and regulations also require officers to complete continued professional

training courses and refresher courses at various intervals to build and maintain proficiency in areas of an officer's duties.

This bill requires an SRO, upon assignment to a schoolsite, and at least every two years thereafter, to complete opioid overdose recognition and response training that is approved by POST or DHCS.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The Department of Public Health estimates annual General Fund costs of $360,000 for 2.0 positions and an annual data analysis software subscription to complete data analysis responsibilities as a result of this bill.
- The POST may incur additional General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide implementation guidance for integrating overdose response into school safety planning.
- Any costs for DHCS and CDE are expected to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/15/26)

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc. (source)
Addiction Counselor Certification Board of California
Alameda County Office of Education
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
California Behavioral Health Association
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Medical Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California School Nurses Organization
California Teachers Association
California Youth Empowerment Network
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
City of Fontana
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
Drug Policy Alliance
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
Schools Excess Liability Fund

The California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions
One Individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/15/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:38:01

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1588
Author: Stefani (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Vehicles: Sideshow Accountability and Community Safety Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes new criminal penalties for engaging in an exhibition of speed, where the violation occurred as part of a sideshow, and expands the definition of a sideshow.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 resolve chaptering out conflicts with AB 1830 (Petrie-Norris, 2026) and add a coauthor.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits a person from engaging in a motor vehicle speed contest on a highway or in an off-street parking facility (speed contest), and from aiding or abetting a speed contest. (Vehicle Code (VEH) § 23109)

2) Defines "motor vehicle speed contest" to include a motor vehicle race against another vehicle, a clock, or other timing device. (VEH § 23109)

3) Punishes a speed contest as follows:

   a) Punishes a person convicted of engaging in a speed contest by imprisonment in a county jail for 24 hours to 90 days or by a fine of $355 to $1,000, or by both, 40 hours of community service, and a 90-day to six-month license suspension at the court's discretion, with the option for a restricted license; (VEH § 23109)

   b) Punishes a person convicted of engaging in a speed contest that proximately causes bodily injury to another person by 30 days to six months in county jail or by a fine of $500 to $1,000, or by both; (VEH § 23109)

   c) Punishes a person convicted of engaging in a speed contest that proximately causes specified injuries, including loss of consciousness, a concussion, a bone fracture or a wound requiring extensive suturing as a wobbler, punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years, or by 30 days to six months in county jail, a fine of $500 to $1,000, or by both; (VEH § 23109.1)

   d) Punishes a person convicted of engaging in a speed contest where the offense occurred within five years of the date of the same offense that resulted in a conviction, by imprisonment in a county jail for four days to six months, a fine of $500 to $1,000, and a six month license suspension; if the most recent offense causes bodily injury to another person it is punishable by 30 days to six months in county jail; if the most recent offense causes serious bodily injury to another person, as defined, it is punishable as a wobbler by imprisonment in state prison for 16 months or two or three years or 30 days to one year in county jail, and a fine of $500 to $1,000. (VEH § 23109)

4) Defines "exhibition of speed" as accelerating or driving at a rate of speed that is dangerous and unsafe in order to show off or make an impression on someone else. (People v. Grier (1964) 226 Cal.App.2d 360, 364; CALCRIM No. 2202 (2026).)

5) Prohibits a person from, for the purpose of facilitating or aiding or as an incident to a speed contest or exhibition, in any manner obstructing or placing a barricade or obstruction or assisting or participating in placing a barricade or obstruction upon a highway or in an off-street parking facility. (VEH § 23109)

6) Punishes a person convicted of aiding and abetting a speed contest, engaging in an exhibition of speed, aiding and abetting an exhibition of speed, or obstructing or placing a barricade upon a highway or parking facility for the purpose of facilitating a speed contest or exhibition of speed, by imprisonment in a county jail for up to 90 days, by a fine of up to $500, or by both. (VEH § 23109)

7) Authorizes a court, commencing January 1, 2029, if a person engages in an exhibition of speed or aids or abets an exhibition of speed, to suspend the person's driving privileges for 90 days to six months, only if the violation occurred as part of a sideshow, with the option for a restricted license at the court's discretion. (VEH § 23109)

8) Defines "sideshow" to mean an event in which two or more persons block or impede traffic on a highway or in an off-street parking facility for the purpose of performing motor vehicle stunts, motor vehicle speed contests, motor vehicle exhibitions of speed, or reckless driving, for spectators. (VEH § 23109)

9) Authorizes vehicle impound, including impoundment of a vehicle involved in a speed contest, exhibitions of speed, or reckless driving, subject to the following:

    a) States that any removal of a vehicle is a seizure under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Section 13 of Article I of the California Constitution, and shall be reasonable and subject to the limits set forth in Fourth Amendment jurisprudence; (VEH § 22650)

    b) Authorizes a peace officer and other specified persons to remove a vehicle, subject to specified notice, storage, and release requirements, in a variety of enumerated circumstances, including where a vehicle is parked on a highway in a position that obstructs traffic or creates a hazard to other traffic, and if the officer arrests a person driving a vehicle for an alleged offense, and the officer is required, permitted to take, and does take, the person into custody, except as specified; (VEH §§22651 – 22856)

    c) Authorizes a peace officer to remove a vehicle when the vehicle was used by a person who was engaged in a speed contest, and when the person was

arrested and taken into custody for that offense by a peace officer; (VEH § 22651.6)

d) Provides that if a person is convicted of engaging in a speed contest and the vehicle used in the offense is registered to that person, the vehicle may be impounded at the registered owner's expense for one day to 30 days; (VEH § 23109)

e) Authorizes a peace officer who determines that a person engaged in a speed contest, exhibition of speed, or reckless driving, but excluding aiding and abetting an exhibition of speed, to immediately arrest and take into custody that person, cause the removal and seizure of the vehicle used in the offense, and the seized motor vehicle may be impounded for up to 30 days; (VEH § 23109)

f) Provides that if a peace officer arrests a person for obstructing or placing a barricade upon a highway or parking facility for the purpose of facilitating a speed contest, as specified, and causes the seizure of the vehicle pursuant to peace officer authority to remove a vehicle if the officer arrests a person driving a vehicle for an alleged offense where the officer is required or permitted take the person into custody, the peace officer shall not be required to take the person into custody; and, (VEH § 23109.3)

g) Requires a magistrate presented with a peace officer affidavit establishing reasonable cause to believe that a vehicle, as specified, was an instrumentality used in the peace officer's presence in violation of specified crimes, including engaging in a motor vehicle speed contest, engaging in a motor vehicle exhibition of speed or aiding and abetting a motor vehicle exhibition of speed, to issue a warrant authorizing any peace officer to immediately seize and remove the vehicle, to be impounded for up to 30 days. (VEH § 14602.7)

This bill:

1) Provides that if a person is convicted of a violation of engaging in an exhibition of speed on a highway or in an off-street parking facility, as specified, where the violation occurred as part of a sideshow, and the vehicle used in the violation is registered to that person, the vehicle may be impounded at the registered owner's expense for not less than one day nor more than 30 days.

2) Punishes a person convicted of engaging in an exhibition of speed on a highway or in an off-street parking facility, where the violation occurred as part of a sideshow, as follows:

   a) A conviction is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not less than 24 hours nor more than 90 days or by a fine of not less than $355 nor more than $1,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment;

   b) If the driver proximately causes bodily injury to a person other than the driver, the conviction is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than six months or by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment;

   c) If the driver proximately causes specified injuries, including loss of consciousness, a concussion, a bone fracture or a wound requiring extensive suturing to a person other than the driver, the conviction is punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor (wobbler) by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years or by imprisonment in a county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than six months, or by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000, or by both that fine and imprisonment;

   d) If the conviction is for an offense that occurred within five years of the date of a prior conviction of this same offense, that person shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for not less than four days nor more than six months and by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000;

   e) If the perpetration of the most recent offense within the five-year period proximately causes bodily injury to a person other than the driver, a person convicted of that second violation shall be imprisoned in a county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than six months and by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000; and,

   f) If the perpetration of the most recent offense within the five-year period proximately causes serious bodily injury, as defined, to a person other than the driver, a person convicted of that second violation shall be imprisoned in the state prison for 16 months, or two or three years, or in a county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than one year, and by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000.

3) Expands the definition of a “sideshow,” as follows:

   a) Specifies that this means an event or gathering in which two or more persons barricade, block, impede, or otherwise obstruct traffic upon or access to a

highway or off-street parking facility without the consent of the owner, operator, or agent thereof, for the purpose of performing motor vehicle stunts, motor vehicle speed contests, motor vehicle exhibitions of speed, or reckless driving;

b) Removes the requirement that the event is for the purpose of performing certain vehicle crimes for spectators; and,

c) States that a sideshow may involve the use or operation of any motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, motorcycles or off-highway motor vehicles, regardless of whether or not those vehicles display license plates or are registered.

4) Incorporates changes proposed by AB 1830 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1830 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "Illegal sideshows have evolved into highly organized and dangerous events that threaten public safety, disrupt California's transportation system, and negatively impact communities throughout the state. These gatherings frequently involve coordinated efforts to block intersections, freeway ramps, and highways while drivers perform reckless stunts before large crowds. Despite recent legislative action, existing enforcement tools and penalties have not kept pace with increasingly sophisticated tactics, including the use of unregistered dirt bikes and social media coordination, as well as a growing number of repeat offenders. Sideshows and street takeovers have become the catalyst for shootings, looting, arson, and other serious crimes. AB 1588 strengthens California's response by closing enforcement gaps, increasing accountability for repeat offenders, and aligning sideshow penalties with existing street racing laws. By providing law enforcement with additional tools to address organized sideshow activity, this bill aims to improve public safety, protect transportation infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for communities affected by these dangerous events."

2) *Sideshows and exhibitions of speed.* Sideshows are illegal street activities in which people block or impede traffic to perform vehicle stunts, street racing, exhibitions of speed, or reckless driving, for spectators. These events, where people race vehicles and shut down streets, can cause crashes and spectator injuries and can block roadways and disrupt traffic flow, including access for

emergency vehicles. An exhibition of speed is when a driver accelerates or drives at a dangerous speed to show off or make an impression on someone else. It does not include street racing, which is known as a motor vehicle speed contest.

3) *A new definition of sideshow.* This bill revises the definition of "sideshow" in an effort to close loopholes identified by law enforcement. Among other changes, the bill adds motorcycles and off-highway vehicles (such as dirt bikes) to the definition of sideshow, as the involvement of these types of vehicles has become more common. It is not clear, however, that this is actually a loophole in current law, as motorcycle and dirt bike riders can currently be charged for their participation in a sideshow. Earlier this year, Bay Area law enforcement agencies arrested nine people and impounded 77 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and dirt bikes after a sideshow and street takeover on the Bay Bridge.

   Additionally, this bill creates more flexibility in the definition of sideshow, which may result in some activities that did not previously rise to the definition of sideshow now being classified as a sideshow. For example, this bill removes the requirement that a sideshow have "spectators," as frequently the only people participating in these events are the drivers themselves.

4) *This bill imposes penalties for exhibitions of speed at sideshows.* AB 1588 creates a new penalty structure for an exhibition of speed as part of a sideshow. This means that a driver would have had to accelerate or drive at an unsafe rate of speed in order to show off to someone else while they were part of a sideshow. Currently, an offense of this nature would likely be prosecuted as reckless driving. The bill aligns the new penalties with those imposed for motor vehicle speed contests—also know as street racing. The escalating penalties begin with one to 90 days in county jail and grow based on severity and recurrence. Drivers that cause serious injuries or commit repeat offenses can be charged with wobblers, meaning either a misdemeanor or a felony. Lastly, the bill authorizes vehicles used in sideshows to be impounded for up to 30 days.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1978 (Sanchez, Chapter 501, Statutes of 2024) – Authorized a peace officer to impound a vehicle without taking the driver into custody for obstructing or placing a barricade upon a highway, or an offstreet parking facility for the purpose of facilitating or aiding a speed contest or exhibition of speed.

AB 2186 (Wallis, Chapter 502, Statutes of 2024) – Authorized a peace officer to removal and seize a motor vehicle used in an exhibition of speed in an offstreet parking facility for no more than 30 days and provides that a peace officer may not remove and seize a vehicle of a person who aided and abetted a person engaged in an exhibition of speed.

AB 3085 (Gipson, Chapter 504, Statutes of 2024) – Expanded the list of offenses for which a peace officer may impound a vehicle pursuant to a warrant or order issued by a magistrate.

AB 2000 (Gabriel, Chapter 436, Statutes of 2022) – Made it a crime for a person to engage in a motor vehicle speed contest in an off-street parking facility or an exhibition of speed in an off-street parking facility, or to aid or abet therein.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, Fiscal impacts include:

- Court impacts: Unknown court cost pressures to adjudicate additional criminal enforcement actions authorized by this bill. Actual costs would depend on the number of additional cases related to violations for engaging in an exhibition of speed as part of a sideshow and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. Staff notes that it generally costs about $10,500 to operate a courtroom for one eight-hour day. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased staff time and resources may create a need for additional support from the General Fund to support court operations. The 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million from the General Fund to backfill the current fund imbalance in the Trial Court Trust Fund and help pay for court operations. (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund

- State prison: Potential increase in incarceration costs (General Fund) for new commitments to state prison for persons convicted of engaging in an exhibition of speed as part of a sideshow for a second or subsequent time within 5 years of a prior conviction and proximately causing serious bodily injury. To the extent that the provisions of this measure lead to additional commitments to state prison, it would result in additional General Fund costs of approximately $138,000 for each year of sentencing imposed on violators.

- County jail: Potential increase in local incarceration costs (local funds) to the extent persons would be convicted of a crime created by this bill and sentenced to county jail time. The punishment for crimes specified in this bill range from optional jail time of 30 days to six months, to mandatory jail sentences ranging

from four days to 16 months or two or three years, depending on the violation. The annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail varies by county but can range from $70,000 to $90,000 per year. County incarceration costs are not subject to reimbursement by the state, but overcrowding in county jails creates cost pressure on the General Fund because the state has historically granted new funding to counties to offset overcrowding resulting from public safety realignment. (local funds, General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Mayor Daniel Lurie, City and County of San Francisco (source)
AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah
Active San Gabriel Valley
Alameda; City of
Auto Club of Southern California
Beverly Hills; City of
Bike LA
Bike Oven
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California City Transportation Initiative
California Contract Cities Association
California District Attorneys Association
California Police Chiefs Association
City and County of San Francisco
City of Fremont
City of Norwalk
City of Sunnyvale
Conor Lynch Foundation
League of California Cities
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Los Angeles Walks
Move Santa Barbara County
Norwalk; City of
Oakland; City of
San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets
San Francisco Police Department
So Cal Cycling
Socalcycling.com
Stop4aidan

Street Racing Kills
Streets are for Everyone
Walk San Francisco

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

ACLU California Action
Initiate Justice
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Police Chiefs Association, "AB 1588 provides law enforcement with important tools to address this growing public safety threat. The bill closes existing enforcement gaps by expressly prohibiting participation in, aiding, or abetting a sideshow, expands the statutory definition of a sideshow to reflect modern tactics used by organizers, including the use of motorcycles and off-highway vehicles to block and obstruct roadways, and strengthens penalties for repeat offenders. The bill also authorizes courts to treat vehicles used as performing vehicles in sideshows as public nuisances subject to forfeiture following conviction and permits vehicle seizure warrants to be supported by video evidence from reasonably reliable sources."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to Initiate Justice, "Based on evidence, this proposal will be ineffective. Oakland, Alameda County, San Jose, and Fresno increased fines for sideshow participation and it did not lead to meaningful reduction in the number of sideshows. While Oakland increased its fines in 2023, sideshows in Oakland are still prevalent. In 2024, the Oakland Police Department (OPD) stated that crimes, such as sideshow incidents, had actually increased, and this year hundreds of spectators still gathered at sideshows.

"Moreover, higher fines do not deter behavior that is social, impulsive, or collective. Instead, financial penalties of this scale fall most heavily on low-income residents, deepening cycles of poverty and punishment rather than improving public safety.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel,

Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bryan, Elhawary, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/24/26 11:37:39

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1590
Author: Ransom (D), et al.
Introduced: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Menjivar, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: revised allocation formula

SOURCE: Career Technical Education Coalition

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with the Executive Director of the State Board of Education (SBE), to revise the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) allocation formula no later than the 2027-28 fiscal year to ensure that all funds appropriated for the program are fully allocated in the fiscal year in which the funds are appropriated, to the maximum extent practicable.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CTEIG Program as a state education, economic, and workforce development initiative intended to encourage, maintain, and strengthen the delivery of high-quality career technical education (CTE) programs. (Education Code (EC) § 53070)

2) Provides an ongoing appropriation of $300 million annually for the CTEIG program beginning in the 2021-22 fiscal year, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, and specifies that funding be distributed among small, medium, and large applicants based on average daily attendance (ADA). (EC § 53070)

3) Requires applicants to provide a local match of $2 for every $1 received from the program and prohibits an applicant from receiving an amount greater than the amount determined by the allocation formula. (EC § 53071)

4) Requires applicants to demonstrate that their CTE programs meet specified minimum eligibility standards, including high-quality curriculum and instruction, work-based learning opportunities, student support services, labor market alignment, industry partnerships, pathways to postsecondary education and employment, access for students with exceptional needs, and annual data reporting. (EC § 53071)

5) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with the Executive Director of the SBE, to give positive consideration to applicants serving unduplicated pupils, students with higher-than-average dropout rates, applicants in areas of high unemployment, regional programs operated by county offices of education or joint powers authorities, and applicants demonstrating regional collaboration, industry engagement, and infrastructure investment. (EC § 53075)

6) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in collaboration with the Executive Director of the SBE, to determine and publicly release the CTEIG allocation formula, allowable expenditures, funding amounts, and number of grants to be awarded. (EC § 53076)

7) Establishes the K-12 Strong Workforce Program, administered by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, to support regional CTE and workforce alignment efforts. (EC § 88827)

8) Establishes the Golden State Pathways Program to support the development and implementation of college and career pathways in high-wage, high-skill, and high-growth industry sectors. (EC § 53020)

This bill requires CDE, in consultation with the Executive Director of the SBE, to revise the CTEIG allocation formula no later than the 2027-28 fiscal year to ensure that all funds appropriated for the program are fully allocated in the fiscal year in which the funds are appropriated, to the maximum extent practicable.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "Career Technical Education programs are essential in exposing students to a wide range of career pathways, preparing them with practical, workforce-ready skills, and offering specialized coursework that support both career readiness and access to higher education. Unfortunately, nearly $120 million in state-approved CTE funding has not reached our students due to a broken funding formula. AB 1590 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to fix this formula to ensure that when the state appropriates funding for CTE, all those dollars go directly to students."

2) *This bill appears to respond to growing frustration regarding unallocated CTEIG funds.* This bill is intended to address longstanding concerns from local educational agencies (LEAs), county offices of education, regional occupational programs, and other CTE stakeholders that significant amounts of appropriated CTEIG funding have gone unallocated despite strong statewide demand for CTE investments. According to the author and supporters, nearly $120 million in appropriated funding remained unawarded over recent grant cycles due to limitations within the allocation methodology currently used by the CDE.

   The concern underlying this bill appears to stem less from insufficient applicant demand than from the interaction between the formula-generated entitlement amount and the program's required local match. Historically, applicants have been effectively funded based on the lesser of: (1) the amount generated by the allocation formula; or (2) the amount supported by the applicant's available local match. In instances where an applicant's available match has been lower than its calculated entitlement, the remaining entitlement capacity has not been redistributed to other applicants with unused match capacity, resulting in carryover balances and subsequent funding rounds.

3) *Existing law provides broad authority over the allocation formula, but also establishes guardrails.* Existing law grants CDE, in consultation with the Executive Director of the SBE, substantial discretion to determine the CTEIG allocation formula. At the same time, statute establishes several significant parameters around the program, including the required 2:1 local match, the distribution of funds among small, medium, and large applicants, minimum eligibility standards, and required "positive consideration" factors favoring high-need and regionally collaborative applicants.

   This bill does not prescribe a specific revised methodology. Instead, it establishes an outcome-oriented requirement that all appropriated funds be allocated within the fiscal year in which they are appropriated. As a result, the

bill raises an important policy and legal question regarding the extent to which existing law already provides CDE sufficient authority to revise the methodology in a manner that fully allocates available funds absent additional statutory changes.

4) *Potential administrative changes may partially address the concerns raised by this bill.* Since the introduction of this measure, CDE has been evaluating revisions to the CTEIG allocation methodology intended to reduce or eliminate the carryover balances that have occurred in recent funding rounds. The recently released Round 12 Request for Applications states that the allocation methodology for the upcoming cycle will "slightly differ" from prior years and further states that the CDE "anticipates allocating all available funds in a single funding round."

   According to CDE, the Round 12 allocation methodology differs from prior years in two significant ways. First, the methodology proportionally allocates an applicant's unduplicated pupil count (UPC) based on the percentage of ADA attributed to an individual application versus a consortium application. Second, where an applicant's available local match is less than the amount generated by the allocation formula, funding that would otherwise remain unallocated is redistributed among other applicants with remaining match capacity. According to CDE, these changes are anticipated to allow all available program funds to be allocated in a single funding round.

   To the extent the CDE is able to implement a methodology that consistently allocates the full annual appropriation within existing statutory authority, this bill may not be necessary. At the same time, proponents may argue that codifying the expectation that all appropriated funds be fully allocated each fiscal year would help ensure that future administrations continue prioritizing full allocation of available CTEIG funding.

5) *Bill reflects a broader statewide focus on workforce development and career readiness.* This measure aligns with ongoing state efforts to strengthen college and career pathways, improve alignment between TK-12 education and workforce needs, and expand access to work-based learning opportunities. As noted in the Governor's Master Plan for Career Education stakeholder discussions, stakeholders identified fragmented and inconsistent funding streams as a major challenge to sustaining high-quality CTE pathways and workforce partnerships over time.

   CTE coursework has also been associated with improved educational and workforce outcomes, including higher graduation rates, improved

postsecondary participation, and stronger employment outcomes, particularly for historically underserved student populations. In that context, supporters argue that ensuring existing CTEIG appropriations consistently reach LEAs and students is an important component of the state's broader workforce and economic development goals.

6) *CTEIG operates within a broader landscape of CTE funding streams.* While concerns regarding unallocated CTEIG funds are significant, CTEIG is one of several major state and federal funding streams supporting CTE programs. LEAs may also support CTE programs using Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base funding, Perkins V funds, the K-12 Strong Workforce Program, Golden State Pathways grants, California Partnership Academies, Agricultural Career Technical Education Incentive Grants, and various local or regional workforce initiatives.

   Nevertheless, because CTEIG remains one of the state's largest ongoing dedicated K-12 CTE funding sources, stakeholders argue that persistent carryover balances undermine both the practical and symbolic value of the state's continued investment in workforce preparation and career readiness.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

This bill is not expected to result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs to the state. Additionally, the California Department of Education (CDE) indicates that any workload costs would be minor and absorbable.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Career Technical Education Joint Powers Authority Coalition (source)
aiEDU
Alameda County Office of Education
Amador County Unified School District
Association of California School Administrators
Baldy View Regional Occupational Program
California Charter Schools Association
California County Superintendents
California High School District Coalition
California Legislative Women's Caucus
California New Car Dealers Association
CAROCP - the Association of Career and College Readiness Organizations

Central Valley Education Coalition
Chaffey Joint Union High School District
Coalition for Career Technical Education
Coastline Regional Occupational Program
Contra Costa County Office of Education
Desert Sands Unified School District
Educational Results Partnership
El Monte Union High School District
Fullerton Joint Union High School District
Glenn County Office of Education
Grossmont Union High School District
Huntington Beach Union High School District
John Muir Charter Schools
LA Educ Corps
Lake County Office of Education
Manteca Unified School District
Mission Valley ROP
Mountain Desert Career Pathways Joint Powers Authority
Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Napa County Office of Education
Nevada Joint Union High School District
Northern Humboldt Union High School District
Orange County Department of Education
San Benito High School District
San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools
San Diego Unified School District
San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Program
San Joaquin County Office of Education
Shasta-Trinity Regional Occupational Program
SIATech High Schools
Small School Districts Association
Sutter County Superintendent of Schools
Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Program
Valley Regional Occupational Program
Wheatland Union High School District
YouthBuild Charter School of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:38:02

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1600
Author: Arambula (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-10, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Disadvantaged communities: farmworker communities

SOURCE: La Cooperativa de Campesina

DIGEST: This bill requires California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to make findings on barriers to investment opportunities in farmworker communities and to consider identifying these communities as disadvantaged pursuant to those findings.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 remove farmworker communities from the definition of disadvantaged communities and instead require that the CalEPA considers identifying farmworker communities as disadvantaged communities after making specified determinations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), and requires all moneys collected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) under the state's Cap-and-Invest Program to be deposited into the GGRF. (Government Code (GOV) § 16428.8)

2) Provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that GGRF moneys shall only be appropriated in a manner consistent with state laws governing the GGRF, including the GGRF Investment Plan and Communities Revitalization Act. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 39712(a)(1))

3) Requires the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to identify disadvantaged communities for GGRF investment opportunities; requires these communities to be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria; provides that the criteria may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:

   a) Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; and,

   b) Areas with concentrations of people that are of low-income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment. (HSC § 39711)

4) Requires that the GGRF investment plan allocate a minimum of 25% of GGRF moneys to projects located within the boundaries of, and benefiting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities identified by CalEPA, as specified:

   a) a minimum of 5% to projects that benefit low-income households or to projects located within the boundaries of, and benefiting individuals living in, low-income communities located anywhere in the state; and

   b) a minimum of 5% to projects that either benefit low-income households that are outside of, but within one-half mile of, disadvantaged communities, or to projects located within the boundaries of, and benefiting individuals living in, low-income communities that are outside of, but within one-half mile of, disadvantaged communities. (HSC § 39713(a-c))

5) Requires CARB to ensure that greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction rules, regulations, programs, mechanisms, and incentives under its jurisdiction, where applicable and to the extent feasible, direct public and private investment toward the most disadvantaged communities in California and provide an opportunity for small businesses, schools, affordable housing associations, and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions. (HSC § 38565)

6) Establishes the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to provide services to impoverished communities,

including overseeing federal block grants, funding and technical assistance to community action agencies, coordinate antipoverty efforts, and plan and evaluate long-range and short-range strategies for overcoming poverty in the state. (GOV § 12085 *et seq.*)

7) Requires the CSD to develop and administer the Energy Efficiency Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP); authorizes CSD to develop requirements, guidelines, and subgrantee contract provisions for LIWP, as specified; requires, before a subgrantee contract is executed for the provision of local service, CSD to post draft program guidelines on CSD's website and to hold a public hearing to obtain public input on the draft program guidelines, as specified. (GOV § 12087.5)

8) Requires that $10 million of Proposition (Prop) 4 funds be made available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as part of the Farmworker Housing Component of LIWP, to low-income farmworker households for no-cost energy efficiency upgrades designed to reduce GHG emissions by saving energy; requires that these upgrades include, but are not limited to, insulation, central heating and cooling system upgrades, lighting upgrades, and window replacement. (Public Resources Code (PRC) § 93580)

This bill:

1) Requires CalEPA to:

   a) Assess the following:

      i) Whether designating farmworker communities would increase investment opportunities;

      ii) Whether there is sufficient data to identify farmworker communities; and

      iii) Potential barriers to investment opportunities in farmworker communities.

   b) Make the above findings available on its website.

   c) Consider identifying farmworker communities as disadvantaged communities pursuant to those findings.

2) Requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to develop a strategy to engage with farmworker communities on environmental, health, and socioeconomic burdens.

Background

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The GGRF was created in the 2012 budget (SB 1018, Budget Committee, Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012) to use funds collected from Cap-and-Invest auctions to further the goals in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32, Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006). GGRF funds essential programs such as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, the Community Air Protection Program, wildfire and forest resilience, and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program.[1]

State law established under SB 535 (De León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012) and AB 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) targets a portion of these investments to frontline communities, by requiring CalEPA to identify disadvantaged communities and mandating the allocation of 35% of GGRF dollars to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, which the state collectively refers to as priority populations. Priority populations include all of the following:

a) Disadvantaged communities, comprised of:

   i) The top 25% of census tracts experiencing disproportionate amounts of pollution, environmental degradation, and socioeconomic and public health conditions according to CalEnviroScreen (described below);

   ii) Census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen due to data gaps, but receiving the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen "Pollution Burden" composite scores;

   iii) Census tracts identified in 2017 as disadvantaged, regardless of their CalEnviroScreen scores; and,

   iv) Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

b) Low-income communities and households, which have incomes either at or below 80% of the statewide median, or below a threshold designated as "low-income" by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

[1] LAO (2025) *Overview of New Updates to The Cap-and-Invest Program*, https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/5097

Farmworker communities. California farmworkers face major challenges, including pesticide exposure, poverty, educational barriers, linguistic isolation, housing and food insecurity, difficult working conditions, and poor healthcare access. As noted above, a number of these factors are captured as indicators in CalEnviroScreen, suggesting that farmworker communities may be at the nexus of many of the pollution and socioeconomic indicators that the state uses to identify disadvantaged communities.

In a 2022 study, researchers from the University of California, Riverside state that pesticides "contribute to poor health conditions among farmworkers who have considerably higher exposure to pesticides than non-agricultural workers, increasing their risk for skin disease, vision problems, and respiratory-associated illness."[2]

In 2022, the United States Department of Labor released "California Findings from the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) 2015-2019" which found that 96% of California farmworkers were Hispanic, 84% could not speak English well or at all, 35% lived in crowed dwellings, and the average income was less than $25,000.[3] Another 2022 survey conducted by CDPH and UC Merced found that 42% of California farmworkers reported very low or low food security, more than one third reported difficulties keeping their home cool, 40 to 50% had health testing indicating pre-diabetes, diabetes, or chronic inflammatory conditions, and nearly half did not have health insurance at some point in the last 12 months.[4]

The Low-Income Weatherization Program. Funded by GGRF, LIWP reduces household energy costs and GHG emissions by funding energy efficiency upgrades and rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, at no cost to low-income households.[5] Since its inception in 2014, LIWP has received funding from GGRF, the state's General Fund, and, most recently, Prop 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, which authorized the issuance of $10 million to the Farmworker Housing Component of LIWP.

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[2] Cheney, A.M., et al. (2022) *The intersection of workplace and environmental exposure on health in Latinx farm working communities in rural inland southern California,* International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9566176/

[3] US Department of Labor (2022) *California Findings from the National Agricultural Workers Survey*. https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/research/publications/findings-national-agricultural-workers-survey-naws-2015-2019

[4] UC Merced (2023) *Community and Labor Center's New Study Highlights Farmworkers' Health Challenges.* https://news.ucmerced.edu/news/2023/community-and-labor-centers-new-study-highlights-farmworkers-health-challenges

[5] CSD, *Low-Income Weatherization Program*. https://www.csd.ca.gov/Pages/Low-Income-Weatherization-Program.aspx

Farmworker families spend a larger share of their annual income on home energy and often cut back on other critical needs to pay their energy bills. Launched in 2019, the LIWP Farmworker Housing Component provides services to low-income farmworker households and is administered by La Cooperativa Campesina de California to install energy saving and solar measures in single-family dwellings and buildings of 2-4 units of eligible farmworker households.[6]

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "Farmworkers should be treated with dignity and respect reflective of the essential contribution they make to California's agricultural economy. Every day, they face the compounding burdens of extreme heat, pesticide exposure, substandard housing, and environmental degradation, conditions that are only worsening as climate change intensifies. However, some farmworker communities remain structurally excluded from climate investments that are designed to help communities like theirs.

For example, California's climate investment framework prioritizes disadvantaged communities (DACs) for investments from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Even though farmworkers face clear environmental and socioeconomic vulnerability, many rural and unincorporated farmworker communities fall outside the eligibility boundaries for DAC designation. AB 1600 resolves this gap by directing CalEPA and OEHHA to identify potential barriers that low-income communities face in accessing investment opportunities, evaluate if DAC designation would expand community funding, and develop a strategy to engage with farmworker communities throughout this process."

Lack of support for farmworker communities. Understanding that the agricultural industry is essential for California's food security and economy, farmworker communities deserve additional support. Designating farmworker communities as disadvantaged communities could provide additional support. However, CalEPA could choose not to identify farmworker communities as disadvantaged due to a lack of data, rather than a lack of need. Additionally, there is no provision in the bill to obtain the data that may be necessary to identify disadvantaged farmworker communities.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

[6] CSD, *Farmworker Housing Energy Efficiency and Solar PV*. https://www.csd.ca.gov/Pages/Farmworker-Housing-Component.aspx

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Cost pressures likely in the hundreds of thousands or low millions of dollars annually (General Fund or Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) for the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Air Resources Board, and other state entities to incorporate farmworker communities into the DAC designation as encouraged by this bill.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

LA Cooperativa Campesina De California (source)
California Human Development
Center for Employment Training
Central Valley Opportunity Center
Los Amigos De LA Comunidad, INC.
Proteus INC.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-10, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, DeMaio, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis

Prepared by: Alyssa Poletti / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 11:31:03

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1602
Author: Blanca Rubio (D)
Introduced: 1/16/26
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Foster youth: disaster aid assistance

SOURCE: Children Now, California Alliance of Caregivers, California Youth Connection

DIGEST: This bill establishes a statewide Child Welfare Disaster Response Fund and a Child Welfare Disaster Response Program to support the needs of foster children and youth and their caregivers during a disaster. Requires that funds awarded be made available to meet the housing, clothing, transportation, and other tangible needs of foster children and youth and their caregivers that occur within 180 days of a local emergency proclamation or a state of emergency proclamation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes a state and local system of child welfare services, including foster care, for children who have been adjudged by the court to be at risk of abuse and neglect or who have been abused or neglected, as specified. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] section 202)

2) Establishes a system of juvenile dependency for children for specified reasons, and designates that a child who meets certain criteria is within the jurisdiction

of the juvenile court and may be adjudged as a dependent child of the court, as specified. (WIC section 300 et seq.)

3) Empowers the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency in an area affected or likely to be affected thereby when requested to do so by local government officials, or if he finds that local authority is inadequate to cope with the emergency. Requires the Governor to proclaim the termination of the state of emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant. (Government Code sections 8625 and 8629)

This bill:

1) Establishes the Child Welfare Disaster Response Program (Program) to be administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

2) Creates the Child Welfare Disaster Response Account (Account) to fund the Program.

3) Provides that, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the Child Welfare Disaster Response Account shall be used for purposes of the Program and to support the needs of foster children and youth and their caregivers during a disaster.

4) Requires CDSS to determine eligibility criteria for the allocation of funds to applications.

5) Provides that a child county welfare agency, county probation department, or Indian tribe, as specified, may apply for funds on behalf of foster children and youth and their caregivers under supervision of the agency, department, or tribe based on the eligibility criteria established by CDSS.

6) Provides that funds awarded shall be made available to meet the housing, clothing, transportation, and other tangible needs of foster children and youth and their caregivers that occur within 180 days of a local emergency proclamation by a local government or a state of emergency proclamation by the Governor.

7) Provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Account may be replenished at the start of every fiscal year.

8) Provides that gifts, donations, and bequests may be made to the Account, subject to any conditions or restrictions from CDSS.

9) Provides that CDSS may implement, interpret, or make specific this chapter by means of all-county letters or similar written instructions from CDSS.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author, "AB 1602 would establish a statewide Child Welfare Disaster Response Fund to provide immediate financial resources to address the urgent needs of children and youth in foster care and their caregivers following a declared natural disaster, including fires, floods, or earthquakes. While the state has a legal obligation to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of children and youth in foster care, existing funding mechanisms do not adequately account for the unanticipated costs that arise in the aftermath of a disaster. These costs may include the replacement of clothing, food, and essential personal belongings; temporary housing and placement stabilization; and transportation to maintain continuity of education, health care, and other required services. Children and youth in foster care and their caregivers experience distinct and heightened challenges during emergency situations, and delays in accessing resources can exacerbate trauma and placement disruption. AB 1602 would ensure timely access to necessary resources following a disaster, supporting continuity of care and minimizing further harm to vulnerable children and families."

Child Welfare Services System. California's child welfare services system is an essential component of the state's safety net. Social workers in each county receive reports of abuse or neglect and investigate and resolve those reports. When an allegation is substantiated, a family is either provided with services to ensure a child's well-being and avoid court involvement, or a child is removed and placed into foster care. In 2025, the state's child welfare agencies received 398,861 reports of abuse or neglect. Of these, 45,856 reports contained substantiated allegations, and 17,886 children were removed from their homes and placed into foster care via the child welfare services system.

Disasters in California. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) data, California had six declared disasters in 2025, fifteen in 2024, eleven in 2023, five in 2022, eleven in 2021, and twenty-three in 2020, with most being fire related. The California Office of Emergency Services data shows as of May 27, 2026, there had been seven new states of emergency declared by the Governor in 2026. The California Legislative Analyst's Office reported that between 1950 and 2017 there were 95 Federal Major Disasters or Emergencies declared, and 189 Federal Fire Management Disaster Declarations. California has a long history of droughts and wildfires, but these are increasing in severity and in frequency due to

climate change. The majority of the largest and most destructive wildfires in California have happened in the last 20 years.

Children in Foster Care During Natural Disasters. CDSS is the sole state agency mandated[1] to oversee Child Welfare Services (CWS) Disaster Response Plans for California. CDSS issues an All County Letter or All County Information Notice that provides guidance to the counties and counties are required to submit their CWS Disaster Response Plan on an annual basis.

The CWS Disaster Response Plan describes the responsibilities and actions required for locating and monitoring dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the CDSS. Disaster response plans include procedures describing how the county will do the following:

- Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for CWS children, probation children, non-minor dependents, including non-minor dependents residing in foster care, out-of-county placements, children placed in or out of California through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, cross coordination with Tribal representative for Indian children in placements, and out-of-state non-minor dependents under county care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster;

- Respond appropriately to new CWS cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster and provide services in those cases;

- Address and provide care for unaccompanied minors;

- Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster;

- Preserve essential program records; and

- Coordinate services and share information with other states and counties. Include a description of the process utilized by the county to ensure that information regarding children placed pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children occurs with both the sending state and the CDSS.

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[1] Pursuant to the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006, PL 109-288, Section 6 (16); Part B Section 422 of Title IV of the Social Security Act; and Senate Bill 703, Chapter 583, Section 29 (c) Statutes of 2007; and the WIC Section 16500.1(c)(1);

CDSS's Child Welfare Services Disaster Planning and Response Unit was created in 2021 to provide additional support during disasters to Child Welfare and Probation agencies across the state. The unit collaborates with all 58 counties to establish effective processes for making, activating, and operating emergency and disaster preparedness plans relating to children in placements under state care - from probation to foster care to out-of-county placements. The Disaster Planning and Response Unit has outlined four emergency management phases as follows:

- Preparedness Phase (including increased readiness): The preparedness phase involves activities taken in advance of an emergency and include mitigation, emergency/disaster planning, meeting with counties to review current CWS Disaster Response Plan and provide feedback, and public education. These activities develop operational capabilities and effective response to a disaster.

- Response Phase (including Pre-emergency, Emergency Response, and Sustained Emergency): When a large-scale disaster is inevitable, actions are precautionary and emphasize protection of life. Activities during this phase include outreach to county(ies) affected to ensure the safety of children/youth, families, and staff; and communicating and coordinating services and information with local government agencies and child welfare personnel in areas adversely affected by a disaster.

- Recovery Phase: During the recovery phase, procedures for the Disaster Planning and Response Unit include reviewing and updating the county Child Welfare Disaster Response Plan Template and Guide for improvements in disaster preparedness to better address the needs of all children/youth and their families.

- Mitigation Phase: Mitigation efforts occur both before and following disaster events and include eliminating or reducing the impact of hazards which exist with the State and are a threat to life and property. Mitigating these hazards, both before and after a disaster is particularly important when evaluating the impact on dependent and probationary children under the care or supervision of the State.

This bill seeks to build on response phase activities by providing the important aspect of funding to support the immediate needs of foster youth and their families during disasters.

Related/Prior Legislation:

AB 689 (Rubio, 2025) was identical to this bill and was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

SB 589 (Alvarado-Gil, 2023) was similar to this bill. The bill created a Child Welfare Disaster Response Program, which upon appropriation, would have allocated two million dollars from the General Fund to the Child Welfare Disaster Response Account to support the needs of foster children and youth and their caregivers during a disaster. SB 589 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1034 (Friedman, 2019) would have required every facility of each of the following types to have an emergency and disaster plans: community care facilities that serve children or nonminor dependents, resource families, certified or licensed foster family homes, small family homes, community care facilities that serve adults, residential care facilities for persons with chronic life-threatening illness, and child care centers. The bill would also have required the Community Care Licensing Division within CDSS to confirm during annual licensing visits that a plan is on file at the facility and includes the required content. AB 1034 held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially low millions, to fund the proposed Child Welfare Disaster Response Account.
- CDSS anticipates minor and absorbable costs for state administration.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Alliance of Caregivers (Co-Sponsor)
California Youth Connection (Co-Sponsor)
Children Now (Co-Sponsor)
Alliance for Children's Rights
Aspiranet
California Association of Christian Colleges and Universities
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California Family Resource Association
California Legislative Women's Caucus

California State Association of Counties
California State PTA
Chief Probation Officers of California
Child Abuse Prevention Center
Child Care Resource Center
City of Glendale
County Welfare Directors Association of California
League of California Cities
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Women Lawyers of Sacramento

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/15/26 14:52:12

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1609
Author: Zbur (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-16, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Customer service chatbots

SOURCE: Communication Workers of America, District 9

DIGEST: This bill requires large private businesses, as defined, to provide customers with timely access to human customer service and support, as provided, and to disclose the use of customer service chatbots, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 refine the definition of "regular business hours" and provide an alternative path to compliance.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines artificial intelligence or "AI" as an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments. (Government (Gov.) Code § 11546.45.5.)

2) Makes it unlawful for any person to use a bot to communicate or interact with another person in California online, with the intent to mislead the other person about its artificial identity for the purpose of knowingly deceiving the person about the content of the communication in order to incentivize a purchase or sale of goods or services in a commercial transaction or to influence a vote in an election. A person using a bot is not liable if the person discloses that it is a bot. This disclosure must be clear, conspicuous, and reasonably designed to inform persons with whom the bot communicates or interacts that it is a bot. (Business & Professions (Bus. & Prof.) Code § 17941.)

3) Defines "companion chatbot" as an AI system with a natural language interface that provides adaptive, human-like responses to user inputs and is capable of meeting a user's social needs, including by exhibiting anthropomorphic features and being able to sustain a relationship across multiple interactions. However, there are several exemptions included. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22601.)

4) Requires an operator making a companion chatbot available, if a reasonable person interacting with a companion chatbot would be misled to believe that the person is interacting with a human, to issue a clear and conspicuous notification indicating that the companion chatbot is artificially generated and not human. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22602(a).)

This bill:

1) Prohibits a large private business from representing that a customer service chatbot is a human. If a reasonable person interacting with the customer service chatbot is likely to be misled to believe that the person is interacting with a human, the business must provide a clear and conspicuous disclosure in the medium in which the customer service chatbot interacts with the customer that the customer service chatbot is artificially generated and not human.

2) Requires such businesses, during regular business hours, to provide customers who require customer assistance with goods or services offered by or provided from the large private business with a simple customer service feature on all

platforms through which the business provides customer service, including online chatbot customer service and telephonic customer service platforms, that allows customers to request to connect to a customer service agent. A large private business satisfies this subdivision if its customer service platform enables a customer to request a customer service agent through commonly understood commands, prompts, menu selections, or verbal requests during the customer interaction.

3) Requires these businesses to make a good faith effort to provide a customer requesting a customer service agent with one of the following:

   a) Connection to a customer service agent within 15 minutes of the request.

   b) A specific appointment time within one business day of the request at which a customer service agent will call or connect with the customer.

4) Provides that a large private business subject to Section 1707.2 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, governing pharmacists, may satisfy the requirements in the preceding section by returning a phone call within one business hour.

5) Provides that a large private business shall make a good faith effort to ensure a customer is not placed on hold or made to wait for more than 15 minutes at any time after connection with a customer service agent, and that cumulative hold or wait times or escalation queues do not exceed more than one hour total.

6) Requires large private businesses who provide goods and services to customers in California through online platforms and who have a telephonic customer service platform to post their telephonic customer service telephone number clearly and conspicuously on their internet website.

7) Authorizes a public prosecutor to bring an action against a business in violation, seeking a civil penalty not exceeding $5,000 for an initial violation, and $10,000 for each subsequent violation.

8) Provides that the use of commercially reasonable and practicable standards that are designed and intended to achieve compliance shall satisfy the “good faith effort” requirements herein, and the inability to comply because of unforeseen circumstances beyond its reasonable control or other extraordinary situations, as provided, does not constitute a violation.

9) Does not require an operator who, as of January 1, 2027, does not utilize any telephonic customer services to customers, to provide telephonic customer service, provided that the business offers customer service methods by which the customer may promptly connect with a customer service agent consistent herewith.

10) Provides specified exemptions.

11) Provides that the duties, remedies, and obligations imposed by this chapter are cumulative to the duties, remedies, or obligations imposed under other law and shall not be construed to relieve a large private business from any duties, remedies, or obligations imposed under any other law.

12) Defines the relevant terms.

Background

Generative AI (GenAI) chatbots have become increasingly prevalent. They seek to offer consumers the benefits of convenience and personalized interaction. These chatbots are powered by large language models and are sophisticated enough for some to believe they are interacting with another human. These chatbots have been increasingly deployed in the customer service and support realm. This provides businesses with a cheaper alternative to human agents, however, many consumers have expressed frustration with seemingly endless or circular interactions with these customer service chatbots. Even when options to bypass such chatbots are provided, consumers are often left on hold for painfully long durations.

This bill seeks to address consumer frustrations with the provision of customer service and support. This bill targets large private businesses, those with over $500 million in gross revenue that provide goods and services to consumers. This bill first requires clear disclosures about the use of customer service chatbots. This bill then requires these businesses to provide easy access to human customer service within 15 minutes of a request, or a specific appointment time within one business day of the request at which a customer service agent will call or connect with the customer, except as provided. This bill is sponsored by the Communication Workers of America, District Council 9. It is supported by a number of labor groups, including the California Federation of Labor Unions. It is opposed by a number of industry associations, including Technet.

Comment

According to the author:

> Across industries, consumers increasingly report being unable to resolve basic issues because customer service systems rely heavily on automated chatbots and long telephone hold times. These systems often fail to understand complex or sensitive problems, repeat scripted responses, or disconnect calls without resolution — wasting hours of consumers' time and leaving critical issues unresolved. For Californians seeking help with housing services and appointments, utility services, health care, travel or essential purchases, the inability to reach a human representative can have serious consequences.
>
> Technology should make life easier — not lock people out of the help they need. When Californians reach out for customer support, they deserve timely, transparent access to a real human who can understand their situation and help solve the problem. AB 1609, the Right to Human Customer Service Act, applies to large businesses with over $500,000,000 in annual revenue and ensures Californians can reach a real person for customer service instead of being trapped in endless phone holds or frustrating AI chatbot loops.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Potential costs to the Department of Justice (DOJ) of an unknown amount. Actual costs will depend on whether the Attorney General pursues enforcement actions, and, if so, the level of additional staffing DOJ needs to handle the related workload. If DOJ hires staff to handle enforcement actions authorized by this bill, the department would incur significant costs, likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually at a minimum. If DOJ does not pursue enforcement as authorized by this bill, the department would likely not incur any costs. (General Fund).

Cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional filings. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and

increase pressure to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Communication Workers of America, District 9 (source)
California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union
California Conference of Machinists
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California State Retirees
CFT—A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Engineers and Scientists of California, IFPTE Local 20, AFL-CIO
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Teamsters California
TechEquity Action
UFCW - Western States Council
Unite Here International Union, AFL-CIO
Utility Workers Union of America

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

American Car Rental Association (ACRA)
American Council of Life Insurers
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies
CalBroadband
California Association of Collectors, INC
California Attractions and Parks Association
California Bankers Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Credit Union League
California Manufacturers & Technology Association (CMTA)
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
California Travel Association
California's Credit Unions
Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC)
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Electronic Transactions Association
Family Business Association of California
Insights Association

Internet.works
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Technet
Travel Technology Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Communications Workers of America, District 9, the sponsor of this bill, writes:

"The use of AI driven customer service tools has increased in recent years. However, there are stipulations with these tools understanding complex situations. Consumers are often left on repetitive loops, with scripted responses, ultimately leading to customer frustration and unsolved issues. Additionally, these AI customer service tools require individuals to wait on hold for extended periods of time, sometimes being disconnected from the call without help. These issues are leading to wasted time, unresolved issues, and consumer frustration across California.

These challenges are not just minor inconveniences, they can have serious consequences. If individuals cannot connect effectively with the services and support they need, their health, employment, and ability to meet basic needs can be put at risk.

Not only are consumers being impacted by the increased use of AI customer service tools, but workers are too. These customer service professionals provide essential labor that cannot be fully understood by an automated tool. The expanding use of this technology, without proper protections, risks displacing workers.

AB 1609 establishes clear and reasonable standards to address these customer services issues by requiring large business providing goods and services in California to ensure access to human customer service during business hours. This helps ensure that automated tools are not a barrier to consumers receiving assistance."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of industry organizations, including the California Association of Collectors, writes:

"[R]igid time limits can pressure agents to prioritize speed over accuracy, increasing employee stress, the likelihood of errors, and potential data-security risks while diminishing service quality. The bill's timing requirements may also

constrain businesses' ability to triage customer contacts based on urgency, safety concerns, fraud risks, and other operational priorities.

Even with the June 10 amendments, AB 1609 continues to impose timing requirements that may not reflect the realities of customer-service operations across industries. Wait times are affected by factors such as call volume, emergency events, fraud-prevention measures, staffing needs, and the complexity of individual inquiries. A one-size-fits-all timing framework risks reducing flexibility and undermining service quality without necessarily improving consumer outcomes.

While the extended timeframes and "good faith effort" standard represent meaningful improvements, questions remain regarding implementation and whether these changes adequately address operational and compliance concerns. Accordingly, the "commercially reasonable and practicable" safe-harbor language and related liability revisions discussed above remain critical.

More fundamentally, AB 1609 continues to apply a largely uniform customer-service framework across industries with very different operational realities and regulatory obligations. Some companies handle highly sensitive data subject to strict federal and state requirements, while others manage situations that require careful triage through technology and specially trained personnel. Although the bill has made progress in recognizing these differences, additional narrowing of its scope remains necessary."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-16, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Gallagher, Lackey, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Wilson

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 13:59:16

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1633
Author: Haney (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/24/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-18, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Taxation: private detention facilities

SOURCE: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond; California Immigrant Policy Center; Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network

DIGEST: This bill imposes an annual tax on "private detention facility operators" equal to 25% of the operator's gross income derived from the operation of each "private detention facility" in California.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 (1) Apply its tax to gross income, as defined, instead of gross receipts; (2) Lower the rate of tax from 50% to 25%; (3) Delay implementation from January 1, 2027, to July 1, 2028; (4) Provide that the tax applies each July 1st on a fiscal year basis for the previous 12-month period ending June 30th; (5) Set forth payment deadlines, return and registration requirements, and direct the California Department of Tax & Fee Administration (CDTFA) to authenticate returns and registration; (6) Ensure that this bill and AB 2465 (Ortega) do not create duplicative Funds.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Enacts the Corporation Tax Law, which among other provisions, taxes net apportioned business income and allocated net nonbusiness income of corporations doing business in California at a rate of 8.84%, or imposes the $800 minimum tax, whichever is greater.

2) Applies the combined report method for corporate taxation, which requires a corporation computing its California tax liability to include the tax returns of each of its unitary subsidiaries and affiliates in one combined report.

3) Allows taxpaying corporations to elect to exclude the income and expenses of their foreign subsidiaries from their combined reports, called the "water's edge" election, with some exceptions.

4) Imposes several excise taxes, including on cigarettes and tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, motor vehicle and diesel fuel, cannabis, and electronic cigarettes, among others, which can contain provisions governing administration of the excise tax, such as requirements to register with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA), enforcement, collections, penalties, and appeals, among others.

5) Enacts the Fee Collections Procedures Law (FCPL), which is the state's general purpose statute for CDTFA to administer special taxes and fees.

6) Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to report on immigration detention facilities operating in California.

7) Prohibits the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from entering into, or renewing contracts with, private for-profit prisons after January 1, 2020, and eliminates their use by January 1, 2028.

This bill:

1) Imposes an annual tax upon all "private detention facility operators" equal to 25% of the operator's gross income derived from or attributable to the state, defined by reference to the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes, derived from the operation of each "private detention facility" in California, commencing July 1, 2028. The tax applies each July 1st on gross income derived in the prior fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending June 30th.

2) Provides that the tax applies regardless of whether the contracting agency is federal, state, or local.

3) Directs CDTFA to administer and collect the tax imposed by this bill using the FCPL and authorizes CDTFA to issue regulations to implement this bill, including emergency regulations.

4) Provides that the tax is due and payable annually on or before July 31st following the close of the prior fiscal year and must be accompanied by a return filed using electronic media.

5) Requires private detention facility operators to register with CDTFA.

6) Directs CDTFA to authenticate the return and the registration in a form and manner according to methods it prescribes, including electronic media.

7) Requires CDTFA to deposit revenues from the tax into the Due Process for All Fund, which this bill creates in the State Treasury. However, the measure does not create the Fund if AB 2465 (Ortega) is also enacted.

8) Provides that the Legislature can appropriate money from the Fund for immigration-related services.

9) Defines "Private detention facility" by reference to the Government Code.

Background

Private prisons. The federal government contracts with private detention facilities throughout the country to house immigration detainees and federal criminal pretrial detainees. On May 15, 2026, Attorney General Rob Bonta released the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s fifth report on immigration detention facilities operating in California, where noncitizens are detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, pursuant to a requirement enacted by the Legislature.

The report found that conditions in these facilities had largely worsened as the Trump Administration's mass deportation campaign led to overcrowding and strained resources, especially impacting access to medical care and conditions of confinement. Tragically, there were six deaths of detainees between September 2025 and March 2026 — the highest number since the DOJ started conducting reviews in 2017. These deaths, coupled with DOJ's findings of substandard conditions that fail to meet ICE's own detention standards, raise serious concerns about these facilities' ability to safely detain a growing detainee population and underscore the need for greater accountability and oversight.

According to USA Spending, the federal government has paid out $604.9 million in contracts related to the operation of 12 California-based private detention

facilities, operated by CoreCivic (five), GEO Group (six), and Management and Training Corporation (one). From 2023 to 2024, outlays rose from $116.0 million to $321.2 million, and in 2025, they increased further to $388.3 million. According to IBISWorld, revenue for California's private detention facilities is projected to reach $600 million in the 2027-28 fiscal year, followed by a 2% decline in subsequent years.

Comment

Precedents. AB 1633 sets at least two important precedents. First, the measure takes one item of income that is included for the purpose of determining net income for California's Corporation Tax – gross income derived from the operation of private detention facilities in California – and subjects it to a gross receipts tax where taxpayers can neither deduct expenses nor apply credits. As such, AB 1633 would treat one item of business income differently than all others. Additionally, because the measure does not exclude the gross income subject to its tax from the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes, the same items of income would be subject to tax twice. Second, proceeds of the state's general taxes – Personal Income, Corporation, and Sales and Use – flow to the General Fund, from which the Legislature appropriates them in the Budget Act. Although similar to other excise taxes, AB 1633 directs its revenues outside the Budget Act to the Due Process for All Fund, only allowing the Legislature to then appropriate those funds for purposes of immigration-related services. The Legislature can appropriate any funds it wishes for those purposes by appropriation or the Budget Act. Lastly, the measure isn't clear whether additional revenues are subject to Proposition 98's K-14 educational guarantee or whether Proposition 2's Budget reserve must be satisfied before the Controller transfers moneys from the General Fund to the Due Process for All Fund.

Related legislation.

AB 43 (Thurmond, 2017), AB 2303 (Thurmond, 2018), and AB 2560 (Thurmond, 2018) proposed taxes measured by the value of the contract between a person and the CDCR. None of these measures advanced from the Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee.

AB 2465 (Ortega), which would make ineligible for any tax credit under the Personal Income Tax or Corporation Taxes specified business entities that are directly invested in, own, operate, or manage a private detention facility or that contract with a private detention facility or agency engaging in immigration enforcement for the purpose of aiding in or furthering immigration enforcement. AB 2465 directs the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to estimate the amount of tax

collected attributable to disqualified taxpayers being ineligible to claim credits, and report the estimate to the Controller. AB 2465 similarly creates the Due Process for All Fund in the State Treasury, and directs the Controller to transfer from the General Fund to the Fund an amount equal to FTB's estimate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- CDTFA estimates that this bill would result in a revenue gain of $177 million in 2027-28 (Due Process for All Fund). Annual revenue gains thereafter would likely be similar, to the extent such contracts continue in the State.

- CDTFA indicates that it would incur administrative costs of $257,000 in 2026-27, $1.5 million in 2027-28, $131,000 in 2028-29, $115,000 in 2029-30, and $126,000 annually thereafter, to implement the provisions of the bill. Cost drivers would include identifying and notifying taxpayers, creating a new tax return, programming computer systems, revising publications, developing special notices and tax guides, developing regulations, preparing guidelines for staff, and answering numerous questions from operators and the public (Due Process for All Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/16)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (co-Source)
California Immigrant Policy Center (co-Source)
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (co-Source)
805 Undocufund
AAPIs for Civic Empowerment
ACCE Action
Access Reproductive Justice
Alianza Sacramento
Alliance for a Better Community
Alliance San Diego
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Asian Law Caucus
Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project
Buen Vecino
Building Skills Partnership
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Community Foundation

California Dignity not Detention Coalition
California Democratic Party
California Federation of Teachers
California Food and Farming Network
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance
California Immigration Project
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California National Organization for Women
California Native Vote Project
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California School Employees Association
California Teachers Association
California Work & Family Coalition
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Canal Alliance
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño
Chicano Federation of San Diego County
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chispa
City of Los Angeles
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Community Healers, Inc.
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Courage California
Democrats of Rossmoor
Dignity Not Detention Coalition
Drug Policy Alliance
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities
Ensuring Opportunity Contra Costa
Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
Equality California
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Freedom for Immigrants
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Future Leaders of America
Health in Partnership
Healthy Contra Costa
Immigrant Justice in Action Coalition
Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Immigrants Rising
Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
Indivisible Alta-Pasadena
Indivisible California: StateStrong
Indivisible East Bay
Indivisible Euclid
Indivisible Fair Oaks-Carmichael
Indivisible Mid-Peninsula
Indivisible Palo Alto
Indivisible San Francisco
Indivisible Santa Cruz County
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Jewish Family Community Services East Bay
Justice2Jobs Coalition
Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrant
LA Defensa
LA Voice
Latino Health Access
Legal Aid At Work
Lift Up Contra Costa
Majdal Arab Community Center of San Diego
Mid-City Community Advocacy Network
Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project
Multi-Faith Action Coalition
New Light Wellness
NextGen California
NorCal Resist
Oasis Legal Services
ORALE: Organizing Rooted in Abolition Liberation and Empowerment
Orange County Equality Coalition
Orange County Rapid Response Network
Oxnard Union High School District
Pacifica Social Justice
Pangea Legal Services
Parent Voices California
PICO California
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California
Public Counsel
Rad Jews of OC-LBC
Restoring Hope California
Rising Juntos

Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Sacramento Immigration Committee
San Bernardino Community Service Center, Inc.
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Social Justice Collaborative
South Asian Network
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Street Level Health Project
Thai Community Development Center
The California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
The Children's Partnership
The Fund for Santa Barbara
The TransLatin@ Coalition
Tsuru for Solidarity
TWW/Indivisible Los Gatos
Uncommon Law
Unidos 805
United Nations Association – UC Santa Barbara
Universidad Popular
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Working Partnerships USA
One Individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

San Fernando Valley Alliance
One Individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author "Corporations such as GEO Group and CoreCivic continue to profit from operating private, for profit detention facilities in California, despite longstanding concerns about unsafe conditions, inadequate medical care, and lack of accountability in civil detention settings. In 2026 alone, at least six individuals have died in ICE custody nationwide, underscoring the serious risks associated with this system. California has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents, and the state has a responsibility to ensure that corporations profiting from private detention are held accountable. AB 1633 seeks to do so by imposing a gross receipts tax on private detention operators and directing the revenue towards immigration services and due process protections."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the San Fernando Valley Alliance, "this is an obvious punitive tax on contractors that are fulling federal enforcement of congressional approved legislation, congressional funded and signed off by the President of the United States currently, and Presidents prior. The congressional members that approved of the legislation and funding where majority elected representatives of their districts, as was the presidents elected by the people. It is also a punitive tax against those fulfilling the will of the majority of people of the United States who voted for this administration to aggressively enforce immigration codes of the United States. If this legislation passes, is signed in to tax code and withstands court challenges, it may results in these facilities leaving California. While I don't think the majority of the legislature will care about the increased tax revenue and local economic activity that will be lost from the closures, it might want to think about family members, loved ones, and legal representatives of those being detained and going through their due process hearings. Forcing detention centers out of state will make the detention center farther from love ones to either visit and or check in on the person being detained. It will also make it harder and more expensive for California lawyers representatives to do in person representation, possibly forcing those lawyers to do remote representation."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-18, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Davies, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Colin Grinnell / REV. & TAX. / (916) 651-4117
8/24/26 12:19:03

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1640
Author: Stefani (D) and Lowenthal (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby, Weber Pierson

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Restaurant Reservation AntiPiracy Act

SOURCE: California Restaurant Association

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a person from selling or transferring, or facilitating the sale or transfer of, a restaurant reservation for an amount higher than the price they paid for the reservation, unless the person has a written agreement with the restaurant expressly permitting them to charge a higher amount.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits a person from using, without the consent of the registrant, any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of a mark registered under the Model State Trademark Law in connection with the sale, distribution,

offering for sale, or advertising of goods or services if such use is likely to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive as to the source of origin of the goods or services. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 14245(a)(1).)

2) Establishes the Unfair Competition Law (UCL), which provides a statutory cause of action for any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising, including over the internet. (Bus. & Prof. Code, div. 7, pt. 2, ch. 5, §§ 17200 et seq.)

3) Prohibits a food delivery platform, as defined, from arranging for the delivery of an order from a food facility without first obtaining an agreement with the food facility expressly authorizing the food delivery platform to take orders and deliver meals prepared by the food facility. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 22599(a).)

4) Prohibits a person from selling, or offering to sell, an appointment with the Department of Motor Vehicles. (Veh. Code, § 1680(a).)

This bill:

1) Establishes the California Restaurant Reservation AntiPiracy Act (Act).

2) Defines "restaurant" as a retail food establishment in this state that prepares, serves, and vends food directly to the customer.

3) Provides that a person shall not sell or transfer, or facilitate the sale or transfer of, a reservation for a restaurant for an amount higher than the person paid to acquire the reservation.

4) Provides that 3) does not apply if the person has a written agreement with the restaurant that expressly authorizes the person to charge the higher amount.

5) Provides that a person who violates the Act or causes another person to violate the Act shall be liable for the following, as applicable, in a civil action brought by the Attorney General, or any county or city attorney, in a court of competent jurisdiction:

   a) A civil penalty not to exceed $1,000 per violation.

   b) Injunctive or declaratory relief.

   c) Reasonable attorney's fees.

6) Provides that an individual or entity who suffers actual harm as a result of a violation of the Act may bring a civil action to recover all of the following:

a) Actual damages.

b) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

c) Injunctive or declaratory relief.

d) Any other relief the court deems proper.

7) Provides that any civil penalty recovered by the Attorney General pursuant to 5) shall be deposited in the Public Rights Law Enforcement Special Fund, as specified.

Comments

Restaurant reservations benefit restaurants and consumers. The restaurant gets a sense of how busy it's likely to be on a given night, allowing it to more efficiently plan seating charts and divide up tables between servers. The consumer gets to show up for dinner without having to worry about a wait for a table. Because reservations are a win-win, restaurant reservations are virtually always free, though some restaurants require a deposit or charge a no-show fee to reduce their losses in the event a diner doesn't make it. Increasingly, restaurants offer reservations through online platforms; in theory, letting consumers make reservations online at any time, and letting them see available dates and times for reservations, is more convenient for both the restaurant and the consumer.

Recently, however, a secondary market for reservations has sprung up to profit off of free reservations. These "reservation marketplaces" advertise themselves as merely connecting diners who need to offload a reservation—say, because a conflict arose on the reservation date—with diners who want a reservation at the same restaurant. But in practice, these marketplaces make it profitable for individuals—often, but not always, using bots—to scoop up all available free reservations, so that the only way a diner can get a reservation is to pay for it. The restaurant still bears all the risk and downside of a missed reservation; the consumer has to pay for a free thing; the only winner is the reservation pirate who gamed the system.

This bill puts a stop to reservation pirating in the state by prohibiting any person from selling restaurant reservations for more than what was paid for the reservation, unless the person has a written agreement with the restaurant to do so. Under this bill, therefore, reservation resales would still be allowed in two circumstances: when the reservation is resold at its original cost (thereby allowing consumers to recoup deposits they would otherwise lose), or when the reservation is resold with the consent of the restaurant (thereby allowing restaurants to choose

whether, and on what terms, to work with reservation resellers, and giving restaurants a greater degree of certainty regarding reservations). The bill is enforceable by a public prosecutor and creates a private right of action for persons actually harmed by a violation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal effect is as follows:

> Unknown, potentially significant workload cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate any civil cases filed as a result of this bill (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $8,000 in staff in workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Restaurant Association (Source)
California Attractions and Parks Association
California Travel Association
Epic Steak
Golden Gate Restaurant Association
Karl Strauss Brewing Company
Open Table
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Zinfandel Grill + Prelude Kitchen & Bar + Interlude Kitchen & Bar

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to a coalition of this bill's supporters:

> Eating establishments constantly look for ways to help maximize occupancy in their businesses, which increasingly includes the use of integrated reservation systems. While restaurateurs use these systems to make booking reservations seamless for customers, there has been a rise in unauthorized third-party

reservation services that use bots and fake profiles to hoard reservations and then sell them for a profit – monetizing a restaurant's inventory of tables in a dining room and creating arbitrary economic barriers for guest access.

Restaurants invest in staffing, product procurement, developing brand reputation, and reservation services. When these third parties insert themselves into that system without an agreement and intrude on the complex system for managing reservations, it creates several hardships for consumers and restaurants. Firstly, customer confusion – guests may assume that the establishment is involved in the reservation sales, possibly devaluing the experience for the guest because of the increased expectations that come with an inflated price. Consequently, this has created a system where only people with the means to pay for inflated reservation prices can acquire them and enjoy these restaurants.

Moreover, operational disruptions may arise from the mishandling of reservations by these third parties, potentially harming the guest experience and the reputation of the restaurant. Similarly, when these third parties are unable to resell reservations, nobody shows up – resulting in a situation where employees lose a tipped-earning opportunity, and the restaurants experience a revenue loss. These no-shows are especially harmful for neighborhood restaurants that rely on legitimate reservations to plan for anticipated costs.

Ultimately, unauthorized third-party reservation companies profit by charging exorbitant fees for reservations while making no investment or taking any risk in that same restaurant. AB 1640 is a sensible measure that helps restore control of a dining room back to restaurant operators, while removing artificial economic barriers of entry for potential guests.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/17/26 10:38:04

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1642
Author: Harabedian (D), et al.
Amended: 7/2/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Gonzalez, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Hurtado

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-3, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Wildfires: contamination standards

SOURCE: Eaton Fire Residents United

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to adopt regulations that specify standards for investigation, environmental testing, and clearance to guide the removal of contamination from wildland urban interface (WUI) fire debris in residential areas after a wildfire.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which, among other things, empowers the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) with the authority to require reporting, record-keeping, and testing requirements, and restrictions relating to chemical substances and mixtures. (15 United States Code (USC) §§ 2601 et seq.)

2) Establishes, under TSCA, dust-lead hazard standards, post-abatement clearance levels, and abatement requirements for lead-based paint in certain residential structures. (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 745.61 et seq.)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) to authorize the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to regulate the management of hazardous wastes in California. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §§ 25100 et seq.)

2) Defines "hazardous waste" as waste, that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics:

   a) Causes, or significantly contributes to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or

   b) Poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, as specified. (HSC § 25141(b))

3) Requires the DTSC, under the HWCL, to adopt, and revise when appropriate, standards and regulations for the management of hazardous wastes to protect against hazards to public health, domestic livestock, wildlife, or the environment. (HSC § 25150)

4) Establishes DTSC's Toxicity Criteria for Human Health Risk Assessments, Screening Levels, and Remediation Goals (Toxicity Criteria Rule) for hazardous waste and hazardous substance cleanup sites; requires, among other things, that human health risk assessment calculations—including, but not limited to, all cancer risk and non-cancer hazard screening levels and corrective action objectives—use the toxicity criteria specified under the Toxicity Criteria Rule and attain human health protection, as specified. (22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 68400.5).

5) Specifies, under the Toxicity Criteria Rule, criteria for all human health risk assessments, human health risk-based screening levels, and human health risk-based remediation goals statewide, for the cleanup of releases of hazardous waste or hazardous substances to the environment. (22 CCR §§ 69020-69022)

6) Defines, under DTSC's health standards for the management of hazardous waste, "remediation goal" to mean a contaminant concentration that is media-specific (e.g., for air, groundwater, surface water, or soil affected by a release),

site-specific, protective of human health and the environment, and used as a final cleanup goal for a response or corrective action. (22 CCR § 69020(c)(5))

7) Defines, under DTSC's health standards for the management of hazardous waste, "screening level" to mean a risk-based, contaminant concentration, calculated as specified and considered to be protective for humans (including sensitive groups) over a lifetime. (22 CCR § 69020(c)(6))

This bill:

1) Provides that there is a nonrebuttable presumption that a structure is safe for human occupancy only if the level of lead on an indoor surface meet specified conditions and authorizes DTSC to adopt regulations for standards that are stricter than these specified conditions;

2) Requires DTSC to adopt emergency regulations specifying the science-informed, health-based standards for investigation, environmental testing, and clearance, to guide the adequate removal of lead and TEM-identified asbestos (asbestos) inside and outside structures in residential areas after a wildfire in consultation with relevant coordinating agencies no later than July 1, 2027.

3) Requires the emergency regulations to include all of the following:

   a) A rebuttable presumption that if the WUI debris is present in a structure after a WUI fire, any identified hazardous contamination in the WUI impact zone is the result of that WUI fire;

   b) Requirements for testing lead and asbestos in specified locations of a surviving structure;

   c) Specified requirements for preremediation testing to understand where contaminants are present to guide cleanup efforts and ensure worker safety, and post-remediation testing to confirm that lead and asbestos have been removed from the structure and that clearance has been achieved, or to determine that further remediation efforts are required;

   d) Preremediation and postremedation testing guidelines establishing protocols and methodologies to evaluate specified WUI fire hazards.

   e) The standards set forth in DTSC's Residential Soil Evaluation Guidance for the 2025 LA Wildfires; and

f) Guidance on the use of other restoration strategies and methods and routines to reduce indoor exposures to the residual contamination following remediation.

4) Requires DTSC to adopt regulations specifying science-informed, health-based standards for hazardous chemicals, including levels that are required to achieve clearance for a structure and standards for investigation, environmental testing, and removal of hazardous chemicals inside and outside of a structure in a residential area no later than July 1, 2028.

5) Requires the adopted regulations to include all of the following:

a) The emergency regulations adopted for standards for levels of lead on an indoor surface;

b) A rebuttable presumption that if WUI debris is present in a surviving structure after a WUI fire, that any identified hazardous contamination in the WUI impact zone is the result of that fire;

c) Requirements for testing in specified locations of a surviving structure;

d) Specified requirements for preremediation testing to understand what hazardous chemicals are present to guide cleanup efforts and ensure worker safety, post-remediation testing after cleanup to confirm that WUI debris and contamination have been removed from the structure or to determine that further remediation efforts are required, and health-based thresholds for specified WUI fire hazards; and

e) Standards to ensure that individuals can inhabit a structure safely, including steps to ensure that a structure is habitable to pre-fire conditions and has reached clearance before a resident is required to move back into the resident's home or return to a structure.

6) Requires DTSC to determine the downwind ash zone for each WUI fire using methodologies and data sources, including maps, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, within 45 days of the wildfire reaching 100% containment.

7) Defines “clearance” to mean a formal determination that a home, school, workplace, or other structure has been cleared of WUI debris and that any remaining hazardous chemicals meet the standards established in regulation.

8) Makes related findings and declarations.

Background

Fires in the wildland urban interface. Due to climate change, the frequency and severity of wildfires have been increasing in the state and globally.[1] Four out of the five most destructive wildfires in California history have occurred in the last 10 years.[2] In 2025, the Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles County destroyed over 16,000 structures and burned nearly 38,000 acres combined; in 2018, the Camp Fire in Butte County destroyed nearly 19,000 structures and burned 153,000 acres; and in 2017, the Tubbs Fire in Napa and Sonoma counties destroyed more than 5,500 structures and burned nearly 37,000 acres.

These fires are all examples of WUI fires, which means a zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is known as the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.[3] California is first among the top 5 states with the most homes in WUI areas, with 30-45% of all homes in the state in WUI areas.

Where there's smoke, there's toxins. When fires in the WUI burn into densely populated areas, wildfires can transition into urban conflagrations, in which fires spread rapidly from structure-to-structure. In the wake of these fires, both the interiors and exteriors of structures can become polluted by smoke residue, ash, and debris, which can contain toxic chemicals. The smoke from these fires doesn't just consist of the chemicals from plant-fueled fires, but also of various toxic compounds from lead-based paint, lithium batteries, vinyl siding, fiberglass insultation, electrical wiring, rubber tires, and more.[4]

Fires have been blamed for a long list of health illnesses. Wildland fire smoke has been linked to increased hospital admissions for asthma, strokes, and heart attacks. House fires have been associated with higher levels of cancer in firefighters. But new hazards arise when these types of fires are combined and amplified by burning entire neighborhoods. Health risks associated with WUI fire toxicants can persist beyond the active burning of the fire, due to contamination of the ecosystem and built environment. Exposure to these toxicants and health impacts can also extend

[1] California Air Resources Board. (2026). Wildfires & Climate Change.
[2] CAL FIRE. (2025). Top 20 Most Destructive California Wildfires.
[3] U.S. Fire Administration. (2026). What is the WUI?.
[4] Cornwall, W. (2025). In the Ashes.

well beyond the WUI communities, as smoke can be transported for hundreds to thousands of kilometers.[5]

Studies have reported that several types of chemicals can be found at elevated concentrations inside of structures following WUI fires, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals.[6,7,8] Reports and independent studies have also demonstrated that unsafe levels of toxins can remain in homes after professional cleaning and can be redistributed throughout the home by the HVAC systems.[9] Some types of contamination from WUI fire smoke damage may cause permanent physical damage to property and pose potential acute and chronic health impacts if it goes without sufficient remediation.[10]

For homes that remain standing but have been impacted by WUI fire smoke and debris, there are no uniform state or federal standards pertaining to investigation, testing, and remediation for indoor chemical hazards. Residents returning to their homes have reported feeling concerned about whether it is safe to do so. In the absence of such standards, various entities have developed professional standards and certifications to guide the work of remediation and testing by contractors and hygienists, as well as recommendations for residents. Some guidance has been released from the state for soil contamination following WUI fires.[11] The state has not released similar guidance for indoor contaminants. This bill creates standards for investigation, environmental testing, and clearance to remove contamination, as specified, inside and outside of residential structures following a WUI fire.

Smoke Claims and Remediation Task Force. Out of recognition of the need for statewide standards for investigating and addressing smoke damage, CDI established the Smoke Claims and Remediation Task Force (Task Force) in May 2025. Key takeaways of the report from the Task Force highlighted areas of agreement and disagreement on how to address smoke damage. There was general consensus regarding the relatively greater potential for harm from toxins resulting from WUI fires; the need for standards for contaminants of concern in addition to existing standards; the utility of a tiered classification system for smoke damage

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[5] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2022). The Chemistry of Fires at the Wildland-Urban Interface.
[6] LA Fire Health Study. (2026). LA Fire HEALTH Study.
[7] Jech, S., et. al. (2024). Determination of Soil Contamination at the Wildland-Urban Interface after the 2021 Marchall Fire in Colorado, USA.
[8] Allen, J. et. al. (2025). Post-fire soil hazards: recommendations for updated soil testing protocols and clearance thresholds.
[9] Callimachi, R. and Migliozzi, B. (2025). How Did This Family End Up Back in a Toxic House?.
[10] California Department of Insurance. (2026). Report of the Smoke Claims and Remediation Task Force.
[11] Department of Toxic Substances Control. (2025). Residential Soil Evaluation.

claims with varying protocols; and the importance of training and certification programs for personnel involved in the insurance claim and remediation process, including, but not limited to insurance adjusters, industrial hygienists, remediation experts, and testing laboratories.

Areas of contention included the necessity for pre-remediation testing; the applicability of additional remediation and repeated clearance testing under an insurance claim; and the development of the tiered classification system for smoke damage claims and the activities that apply to the varying protocols. The provisions of this bill reflect some of the more cautious perspectives expressed during the Task Force's activities. For example, the presumptions of safety and attribution in this bill could require additional testing and remediation to achieve what is considered an acceptable level for clearance.

While this bill does not directly address how the standards would apply in an insurance context, its implications should be considered within the broader policy framework of insurance to address smoke damage. There are broad, yet uncertain, implications to various entities that testing and remediation requirements would apply to, including homeowners, schools, and businesses. The presumptions warrant considerations within each of those contexts, and it is unclear how the regulations would apply them. A related bill, AB 1795 (Gipson, 2026), does address how health-based standards would apply within an insurance context in addition to the policy solutions set forth in this bill, however duplicative efforts between these two bills would need to be resolved.

> [NOTE: See the Senate Environmental Quality Committee analysis for detailed background of this bill.]

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "The 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires exposed the enormous gaps in our wildfire recovery protocol, specifically around testing and remediation for smoke damaged properties. There are currently no statewide standards for how to handle smoke damaged homes, what contaminants to test for, and what levels are unsafe for re-occupancy. This bill makes one thing clear: when it comes to our families' health we trust science. AB 1642 will create a statewide scientific standard for when it's safe to return to a home after an urban wildfire. Public health will be the standard, not the exception."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- DTSC estimates one-time costs of at least $1.8 million in fiscal year 2027-28 (Toxic Substances Control Account [TSCA]), which includes funding for research as well as regulation development and adoption.

- The California Department of Insurance (CDI) estimates ongoing costs of $727,5000 in fiscal year 2026-27, $1.4 million in 2027-28, and $1.2 million annually thereafter (Insurance Fund—Proposition 103 sub-account) to implement the provisions of this bill. CDI notes that Proposition 103 funds may not be able to absorb these additional costs, and that these costs would put additional pressure on Proposition 103, which could accelerate the need for a fee increase in the future.

- The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) estimates ongoing costs of $1.2 million (General Fund) to maintain and update standards once they are developed, as needed and supported by the science, or the identification and development of additional needed standards as new WUI-related fire hazards are identified.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

301 Organics
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 South Bay Los Angeles
350 Southland Legislative Alliance
805 Undocufund
After the Fire
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Mu Lambda Omega Chapter
Altadena ACT
Altadena Arts
Altadena Colab
Altadena Community Land Trust
Altadena Earthseed Community Land Trust
Altadena Recovery Team
Altadena Tenants Union
Altagether
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Beautiful Altadena
Biomax Environmental
Bw Builder

California Black Power Network
California Environmental Voters
California Green New Deal Coalition
California Integrative Therapy
California Interfaith Power & Light
California Teachers Association
Camp Fire
Catalyst California
Center for Biological Diversity
Centre for Applied Ecological Remediation
Champion Cleaners INC.
Christopherson Builders
City of Thousand Oaks
Civic Sundays
Clergy Community Coalition
Climate and Wildfire Institute
Coalition for a Safe Fire Recovery
Collaborate Pasadena
Community 3.0x
Conservation Strategies
Courage California
Day One
Eaton Fire Collaborative
Eaton Fire Renters Coalition
Eaton Fire Residents United
End Child Poverty CA Powered by Grace
Enviroscience, INC
Fire Safe Palisades
First Unitarian Church of San Jose, Environmental Justice Ministry Team
Glendale Environmental Coalition
Greenfaith
Hollly Wyman Design
Hpp Cares
Huntington Asthma and Allergy Center
Idle DOT
Indivisible Alta-pasadena
Joan Collaborative
Kids and Teens Medical Group
L.a. Voice
L.z. Design Group

LA Region Community Recovery Organization
League of California Cities
Leap of Faith Family to Family Support
Lift LA
Little Tokyo Service Center
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention
Mcclain Consulting Services
Meteorite Real Estate
Miramar Hoa
NAACP Altadena
National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)
Nefesh LA
Neighborhood First Responders
Nrdc Action Fund
P.e.a.r.l.s. of Compassion-patient, Equity, Advocates, Relationships, Love & Support
Pacific Film Foundation
Pacific Palisades Community Council
Palipower
Palisades Recovery Coalition
Pasadena Community Job Center
Pasadena Tenant Union
Pasadena/altadena Ivy Foundation
Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!)
Pediatric Firestorm Team
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles
Plant Community LA
Public Counsel
Reclaim Our Power: Utility Justice Campaign
Resilient Palisades
Rise Economy
Rogue Food Unites
San Diego350
Sander Architects
Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SOCOCAN!)
Sunita Jain Anti-trafficking Initiative
The Change Reaction
The Utility Wildfire Survivor Coalition
Town of Superior

United Policyholders
Uriu Architecture
Vida Mobile Clinic
Xtreme Athletics

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

American Property Casualty Insurance Association
California Association of Realtors
California Building Industry Association
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies
Personal Insurance Federation of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-3, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Chen, DeMaio, Johnson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Nguyen, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis

Prepared by: Taylor McKie / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/15/26 11:38:34

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1646
Author: Bryan (D) and Mark González (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-7, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Juvenile facilities: visitation

SOURCE: Hoops 4 Justice; Urban Peace Institute

DIGEST: This bill establishes the right of youth confined in juvenile facilities to engage in certain types of consensual physical contact with visitors during in-person visits, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that the purpose of the juvenile court system is to provide for the protection and safety of the public and each minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and that minors under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court who are in need of protective services shall receive care treatment and guidance consistent with their best interest and the best interests of the public. (Welfare & Institutions (Welf. & Inst.) Code, § 202, subds. (a), (b).)

2) Authorizes the court to place a ward of the court in juvenile facility, as specified. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 726.)

3) Defines "juvenile facility" to mean a juvenile hall, juvenile camp or ranch, a facility of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Division of Juvenile Facilities, a regional youth educational facility, a youth correctional center, a juvenile regional facility or any other local or state facility used for the confinement of minors or wards. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 208.3, subd. (a).)

4) Provides that juvenile halls shall not be deemed to be, nor be treated as, penal institutions and that juvenile halls shall be safe and supportive homelike environments. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 851.)

5) Requires the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to adopt minimum standards for the operation and maintenance of juvenile halls for the confinement of minors. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 210.)

6) Establishes the Youth Bill of Rights, which applies to youth confined in a juvenile facility, and provides youth have specified rights. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 241.71.)

7) Provides that it is the policy of the state that all youth confined in a juvenile facility have specified rights, including, among others:

    a) To maintain frequent and continuing contact with parents, guardians, siblings, children, and extended family members, through visits, phone calls, and mail. Specifies that youth may be given access to computer technology for maintaining relationships with family as an alternative, but not as a replacement for, in-person visiting.
    b) To not be deprived of contact with parents, guardians, family, or attorneys as a disciplinary measure.
    c) To information about their rights as parents, including available parental support, reunification advocacy, and opportunities to maintain or develop a connection with their children. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 241.71, subds. (g), (m), (o).)

This bill:

1) Establishes a right for all youth confined in a juvenile facility to have the right to engage in consensual physical contact with visitors during in-person visits that a reasonable person would find appropriate under the circumstances, including hugging at the beginning and end of the visit and holding hands.

2) Prohibits physical contact from being restricted as a disciplinary measure.

3) Requires that limitations to physical contact during in-person visits is only implemented when a significant safety and security concern is present, including pursuant to any court-ordered restrictions on visitations or visitors for a youth confined in a juvenile facility or a temporary and specific health concern. Requires that physical contact is only temporarily restricted for a specific youth or visitor as necessary to address the significant safety and security concern.

4) Requires that all significant safety and security concerns and subsequent contact limitations to be documented in detail, including the duration of the contact limitation and any additional accommodations or security measures implemented to facilitate a return to physical contact visits.

5) Requires that all juvenile facilities establish regulations and procedures for in-person visitation consistent with the requirements in the bill.

Background

SB 518 (Migden, Chapter 649, Statutes of 2007), established the Youth Bill of Rights which enumerates several rights for youth confined in any juvenile facility within the state, including the right to live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment; to be free from various forms of abuse; to receive adequate and healthy meals, clean water at any time, timely access to toilets, access to daily showers, sufficient personal hygiene items, clean bedding, and clean clothing in good repair; to receive adequate, appropriate, and timely medical, reproductive, dental, vision, and mental health services provided by qualified professionals; to not be searched for the purpose of harassment or humiliation, a form of discipline or punishment, or to verify the youth's gender; to receive a rigorous, quality education; and to have daily opportunities for age-appropriate physical exercise and recreation, among others. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 241.71.) Of relevance to this bill, the Youth Bill of Rights provides for the right to maintain frequent and continuing contact with parents, guardians, siblings, children, and extended family members through visits, and the right to not be deprived of contact with parents,

guardians, family, or attorneys as a disciplinary measure. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 241.71, subds. (g), (m).)

The BSCC establishes minimum standards for juvenile facilities. Existing BSCC regulations require juvenile facilities to develop and implement written policies and procedures for visiting. Youth must be allowed to receive visits by parents, guardians, and the youth's children. (California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.), tit. 15, § 1374.) Regulations authorize visits with other family members and other supportive adults. Regulations require visitation to occur at reasonable times unless restrictions are necessary to maintain order and security. (*Ibid.*) Regulations prohibit a visitor from being denied visitation solely based on the visitor's criminal history unless staff determine that the visitor would be a safety risk to youth or staff in the facility. (*Ibid.*) Facilities are required to provide opportunities for at least two hours of visitation per week, and facility staff are prohibited from monitoring conversations during visitation unless there is a security or safety need. (*Ibid.*) Finally, facilities may not replace in-person visitation with technological alternatives. (*Ibid.*)

This bill establishes the right for youth confined in a juvenile facility to engage in consensual physical contact with visitors during in-person visits. This bill specifies that the physical contact is contact "that a reasonable person would find appropriate under the circumstances, including hugging at the beginning and end of the visit and holding hands."

This bill allows for limitations on this right but provides that limitations can only be implemented when a significant safety and security concern is present. This bill specifies that a safety or security concern could include a court-ordered restriction on visitation or visitors for a youth as well as a temporary and specific health concern. This bill provides that limitations on the right to physical contact during in-person visits can only be restricted temporarily for a specific youth or visitor as necessary to address the significant safety and security concern.

This bill additionally requires that all significant safety and security concerns and subsequent contact limitations are documented in detail, including the duration of the contact limitation and any additional accommodations or security measures implemented to facilitate a return to physical contact visits. Finally, all juvenile facilities must establish regulations and procedures for in-person visitation consistent with the requirements outlined in this bill.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Likely major costs to county probation departments to provide the right to consensual physical contact in juvenile facilities. Expanded physical contact allowances and the requirement that such contact shall be permitted during in person visits may require operational adjustments to maintain institutional safety and security. These costs, possibly reimbursable by the state could be both major at the local level (Los Angeles County is estimating up to $1 million annually) and greater in the aggregate statewide. Costs will depend on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Hoops 4 Justice (co-source)
Urban Peace Institute (co-source)
A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project
ACLU California Action
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Arts for Healing and Justice Network
Back to the Start
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Public Defenders Association
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Cancel the Contract
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund-CA
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice;
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
GRIP Training Institute
Initiate Justice
InsideOUT Writers
Justice2Jobs Coalition
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
La Defensa

LA Public Defender's Office
Legal Services for Prisoner With Children
Liberty Hill Foundation
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union
Los Angeles County
Loyola Law School's Youth Justice Education Clinic
MILPA Collective
National Center for Youth Law
National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
Nuestra Causa
Peace and Justice Law Center
Public Works Alliance
San Quentin Skunkworks
Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
The Action Project
The California Youth Justice Project
The Change Parallel Project
The Children's Partnership
The Collective for Liberatory Lawyering
Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural
Ujima Adult and Family Services
Underground GRIT
Universidad Popular
Upward Together
Youngsters for Change
Youth Alliance
Youth Forward
Youth Leadership Institute

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

Chief Probation Officers' of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-7, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González,

Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Flora, Gallagher, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Valencia

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/17/26 10:38:05

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1650
Author: Caloza (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-20, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Rental vehicles: law enforcement

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires any privately owned vehicle rented by, or furnished to, any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for use in detaining, arresting, or transporting persons suspected of violating any law to display a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires every authorized emergency vehicle to be equipped with at least one steady burning red warning lamp visible from at least 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, as specified. (Vehicle (Veh.) Code § 25252.)

2) Provides that a rental company and a renter may agree that the renter will be responsible for no more than all of the following:
   a) Physical or mechanical damage to the rented vehicle up to its fair market value, as determined in the customary market for the sale of that vehicle, resulting from a collision, regardless of the cause of the damage;
   b) Loss due to theft of the rented vehicle up to its fair market value, as determined in the customary market for the sale of that vehicle, provided that the rental company establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the renter or the authorized driver failed to exercise ordinary care while in possession of the vehicle, as specified;
   c) Physical damage to the rented vehicle up to its fair market value, as determined in the customary market for the sale of that vehicle, resulting from vandalism occurring after, or in connection with, the theft of the rented vehicle;
   d) Physical damage to the rented vehicle up to a total of five hundred dollars ($500) resulting from vandalism unrelated to the theft of the rented vehicle;
   e) Actual charges for towing, storage, and impound fees paid by the rental company if the renter is liable for damage or loss; and
   f) An administrative charge, which includes the cost of appraisal and all other costs and expenses incident to the damage, loss, repair, or replacement of the rented vehicle. (Civ. Code § 1939.03.)

3) Specifies the content of optional damage waivers in a rental car contract. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1939.09 (c).)

4) Defines the following terms, for the purposes of various provisions regulating vehicle rentals:
   a) “rental company” to mean a person or entity in the business of renting passenger vehicles to the public;
   b) “renter” to mean any person in a manner obligated under a contract for the lease or hire of a passenger vehicle from a rental company for a period of less than 30 days. (Civ. Code § 1939.01.)

This bill:

1) Makes various findings and declarations related to public safety and the need to appropriately mark rental vehicles used by law enforcement agencies.

2) Specifies that any privately owned vehicle rented by, or furnished to, any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for the use of detaining, arresting, or transporting persons who have violated, or are suspected of having violated, any law, must be required to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo.

3) Requires that the indicia or name of the governmental entity operating the vehicle be displayed in sharp contrast to the background on the front door panels and must be of such size, shape, and color as to be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet. Requires the governmental entity to create and affix the temporary decal to the vehicle.

4) Specifies that the requirement described in (2) and (3), above, does not apply to:
   a) an officer engaged in plainclothes operations;
   b) exigent circumstances involving an imminent danger to persons or property, the escape of a perpetrator, or the destruction of evidence, including if the officer is responding while off duty;
   c) a Special Weapons and Tactics or tactical team unit that is actively performing their tactical team responsibilities, including predeployment, staging, and training use;
   d) an officer engaged in protective operations involving elected officials, judicial officers, or other designated dignitaries if the display of identification would compromise the safety, anonymity, or tactical effectiveness of the protection detail;
   e) an officer engaged in surveillance, active undercover operations, or investigative activities; or
   f) when the vehicle is used solely for the transport of a person who is already in lawful custodial status following arrest pursuant to a judicial warrant issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, or pursuant to a judicially issued extradition order, and is being transported to or from a custodial facility or transportation hub, where the officer reasonably determines that the display of a decal would compromise officer safety, public safety, or the security of the person being transported, as specified.

5) Specifies that a failure to display a decal in accordance with these provisions shall subject the entity renting the vehicle to liability to be enforced in a civil action by the Attorney General, a district attorney, county counsel, or a city

attorney. Permits such suits to be for injunctive or declaratory relief, and provides that a prevailing party is entitled to all reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

6) Requires the terms and conditions of the rental car contract to specify that compliance with the temporary decal requirement is mandatory, and permits the contract to include a term requiring the law enforcement agency to indemnify the owner of the private vehicle.

7) Specifies that these provisions do not apply to any rental car contract entered into prior to January 1, 2027.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Up to $1.4 million in FY 2025-27 and up to $2.5 million annually to investigate and pursue civil action against the entity renting vehicle from the private owner for failure to comply with the display requirements of the bill.

Unknown, potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate new penalties depending on many unknowns, including the numbers of people charged and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

California Faculty Association
California School Employees Association
CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
SEIU California
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

California State Sheriff's Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to SEIU California, which supports AB 1650:

> The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that targeting service workers was justified. That is why it should be no surprise that, in the recent raids in Minnesota, over 30 service workers who are members of our union were arrested and detained. Since the summer of 2025, ICE raids targeting immigrant communities and families that began in Los Angeles have spread to San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, and other cities.
>
> Among the locations that rental car companies operate out of are airports where SEIU United Service Workers West (USWW) members work. Requiring temporary decals would likely reduce the likelihood these workers would encounter immigration enforcement activity.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to the California State Sheriff's Association, which is opposed to AB 1650:

> [AB 1650] would require any privately owned vehicle rented by, or furnished to, any law enforcement agency for the use of detaining, arresting, or transporting persons who have violated, or are suspected of having violated, any law, shall be required to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo.
>
> AB 1650 acknowledges that its provisions would create a security problem that burdens law enforcement agencies and attempts to address that notion by exempting several situations from the bill's reach. Unfortunately, there are other scenarios that are not excluded that create problems for law enforcement (e.g., cars used by local officers engaged in plainclothes operations or driven by the elected sheriff).
>
> Also, all indications are that this bill is focused on federal immigration authorities and their enforcement practices. This is one of a number of bills that attempts to regulate federal practices and at the same time implicates state and local law enforcement. As we have already seen with bills enacted during this session, it is not uncommon for courts to eliminate such bills' application to

federal entities, thereby leaving the measures to only apply to state and/or local agencies.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-20, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/17/26 13:58:34

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1680
Author: Calderon (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Padilla, Niello, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-8, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California FAIR Plan Association

SOURCE: Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance

DIGEST: This bill aims to create greater ability for the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to ensure accountability and coverage options in the operations of the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan Association (FAIR Plan).

Senate Floor amendments of 8/19/26 address chaptering issues with AB 69 (Calderon).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the FAIR Plan to assure the stability of the property insurance market, to assure the availability of basic property insurance, as defined, to encourage maximum use of the normal insurance market in obtaining basic

property insurance provided by admitted insurers and licensed surplus line brokers.

2) Allows the Insurance Commissioner (Commissioner) to conduct an examination of any company as often as the Insurance Commissioner in his or her discretion deems appropriate but shall, at a minimum, conduct an examination of every insurer admitted in this state not less frequently than once every five years.

3) Requires the Commissioner to approve the FAIR Plan's plan of operation and authorizes the Commissioner to examine the FAIR Plan's books, records, files, papers, and documents that relate to its operation.

4) Specifies that rates for the FAIR Plan shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory, shall be actuarially sound so that premiums are adequate to cover expected losses, expenses and taxes, and shall reflect investment income of the plan.

5) Requires all members of the FAIR Plan to participate in the writings, expenses, profits, and losses of the FAIR Plan in the proportion that its premiums written during the second preceding calendar year bear to the aggregate premiums written by all insurers.

This bill:

1) Requires the FAIR Plan to take corrective actions, as specified by the Commissioner or their designee, to correct violations of applicable statutes, regulations, accounting principles, the plan of operation, or other legally binding applicable rules and identified in a report of examination or other operational report. Failure to take these actions will subject the FAIR Pan to up to $20,000 for each unaddressed violation.

2) Allows the FAIR Plan to request additional extensions of 30 calendar days, or other greater extensions approved by the Commissioner, for good cause, to comply. The Commissioner or their designee may deny a request for an extension of time if it is determined the request is not made in good faith or there has not been a good faith effort to comply, as specified.

3) Specifies that the Commissioner may require the FAIR Plan to adjust the policy limits available under the programs it underwrites, and make additional coverage offerings available under the FAIR Plan to include fair rental value coverage under the FAIR Plan's renters' property insurance program.

4) Provides for civil penalties not to exceed $10,000 for each act in violation or not to exceed $20,000 if the act was willful and would require the Commissioner to impose those penalties.

5) Includes the provisions of AB 69 (Calderon) to address chaptering issues with that bill.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 69 (Calderon). Enacts various provisions to assist California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan Association (FAIR Plan) policyholders in securing coverage outside of the FAIR Plan. These provisions include providing policyholder information to interested insurers and agents or brokers of record simultaneously, while also making policyholders aware of additional coverage options. Pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 2061 (Chen). Requires the FAIR Plan to post quarterly on its website, the number of policies it issued in each ZIP Code and its risk exposure. Additionally, deletes the requirement that the FAIR Plan publish its telephone number in all general distribution telephone directories in the state. Pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 234 (Calderon, Chapter 474, Statutes of 2025). Required the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Rules to serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of the governing committee, and authorized each to name a designee to serve in their place.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The California Department of Insurance does not anticipate a fiscal impact from the bill (Insurance Fund).

Staff notes there may be an unknown potential increase in enforcement workload for CDI to address noncompliance with the Commissioner's specified corrective actions, which may be offset to some extent by penalty revenue (Insurance Fund). It is possible that higher aggregate penalties may incentivize the FAIR Plan to contest enforcement actions through the administrative hearing process rather than opting for immediate compliance, which may increase administrative and adjudicatory workload. The magnitude of this workload would depend on the number and scope of violations, as well as any attached penalties.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance (source)
Laguna Beach; City of
Lake Forest; City of
Los Alamitos; City of
Los Angeles; City of
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Tulare; City of
United Policyholders

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, sponsor of this bill:

"In recent years, wildfire risks, insurer withdrawals, and widespread nonrenewals have driven unprecedented growth in FAIR Plan enrollment. As the FAIR Plan increasingly functions as a major insurer rather than a limited backstop, gaps have emerged in its coverage offerings, operational flexibility, and accountability mechanisms. The statutory framework has not kept pace with the scale of the FAIR Plan's responsibilities or the needs of policyholders who rely on it.

In addition, the California Department of Insurance's Report of Examination - the most comprehensive review of the FAIR Plan in decades – revealed systemic problems that have left wildfire survivors struggling with delays, denials, and inconsistent claims decisions, particularly after the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, the largest urban wildfire disaster in state history. The examination evaluated the FAIR Plan's financial conditions, corporate governance, and controls to protect policyholders across 32 areas – finding that in more than half of them, the FAIR Plan had not started or fully implemented the Department's recommendations. The legislation would require the FAIR Plan to make significant operational and governance changes to meet Californians' needs.

The FAIR Plan's policy count and exposure levels have grown dramatically, creating financial and operational risks that extend beyond the program's original purpose. Many policyholders require coverage options that exceed the FAIR Plan's basic offerings, particularly renters and homeowners who require more complete protection. Commercial policyholders lack a mechanism to transition back into the admitted market, leaving many businesses dependent on the FAIR Plan for

extended periods. The Commissioner's oversight tools must be strengthened to ensure timely compliance with examination findings and statutory requirements. Without a penalty structure, there is limited deterrence for violations.

AB 1680 modernizes the FAIR Plan to reflect current market conditions and strengthen consumer protections. It clarifies and reinforces the Commissioner's authority to approve, revoke, or require revisions to the FAIR Plan's plan of operation and ensures that the Plan must adopt statutory and other legally binding examination recommendations within agreed-upon timelines."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-8, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, DeMaio, Ellis, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Patterson, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Flora, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
8/20/26 10:40:53

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1687
Author: Lackey (R), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Driver's licenses: revocation

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), beginning January 1, 2031, to revoke a person's driving privilege upon conviction of a DUI causing bodily injury when the person has four or more prior convictions within a 10-year period for impaired driving offenses; prohibits DMV from reinstating that person's driving privileges until the expiration of 72 months after the date of revocation, subject to certain requirements including the installation of an ignition interlock device (IID); and 2) requires, until January 1, 2033, a person convicted of DUI causing bodily injury with four or more prior convictions within a 10-year period for impaired driving offenses to install and maintain an IID for 72 months.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 revise the license revocation period and the covered impaired driving offenses, and delay the bill's implementation date.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Makes it unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug, or who has 0.08% or more, by weight, of alcohol (BAC) in their blood, to drive a vehicle (hereafter, "DUI"). (Vehicle (Veh.) Code, § 23152, subds. (a), (b), (f), & (g).)

2) Establishes graduated penalties for a first DUI, DUI with one prior, DUI with two priors, and DUI with three or more priors, including jail time, fines, IID installation, license suspension or revocation, and completion of a DUI program. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, 13352.1, 23538, 23540, 23542, 23546, 23550, 23552, 23548, 23575.3.)

3) Requires a 10-year license revocation if a person has been convicted of three or more DUIs or DUIs causing bodily injury, the last of which was punishable as a DUI or DUI causing bodily injury with two priors, a DUI with three or more priors, or as an alternate-felony misdemeanor because of a prior specified felony. (Veh. Code, § 23597, subd. (a).)

4) Makes it unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or the combined influence of the two, or who has a BAC of .08 or more, to drive a vehicle, and concurrently do any act forbidden by law or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver (hereafter, "DUI causing bodily injury.") (Veh. Code, § 23153 subds. (a), (f), & (g).)

5) Establishes graduated penalties for a first DUI causing bodily injury, DUI causing bodily injury with one prior, and DUI causing bodily injury with two or more priors, including jail or prison time, fines, IID installation, license suspension or revocation, and completion of a DUI program. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, 23554, 23556, 23560, 23562, 23566, 23568, 23575.3.)

6) Provides that a person who proximately causes bodily injury or death to more than one victim in any one instance that results in a felony conviction of a DUI

causing bodily injury, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, or vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, shall receive a one-year sentence enhancement in state prison for each additional victim injured (maximum of three). (Veh. Code, § 23558.)

7) Punishes a person convicted of a DUI causing bodily injury, where the violation proximately causes great bodily injury to any person other than the driver, and the offense occurred within 10 years of two or more priors, as a felony by imprisonment for two, three, or four years in state prison, a $1,015 to $5,000 fine, and a five-year license revocation (Veh. Code, §§ 23566, subd. (b), 13352 subd. (a)(6).)

8) Provides that if a person is convicted for the above offense, and the underlying offense occurred within 10 years of four or more priors, there shall be an additional punishment of three years in state prison, which shall be served in addition and consecutive to the sentence imposed above. (Veh. Code, § 23566, subd. (c).)

9) Makes any DUI or DUI causing bodily injury (hereafter, "any DUI") an alternate felony-misdemeanor if that person has previously been convicted of certain impaired driving crimes:

   a) Punishes a person convicted of any DUI within 10 years of specified felonies – a DUI with three or more priors, a DUI causing bodily injury, or gross vehicular manslaughter – as an alternate-felony misdemeanor, a $390 to $1,000 fine, a four- or five-year license revocation (including a three-year designation as a habitual traffic offender), and a three- or four-year IID mandate. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, subd. (a)(6)-(7); 23550.5, subds. (a), (c) & (d); 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)-(2).)
   b) Punishes a person convicted of any DUI, who has a prior conviction for felony vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, as an alternate felony-misdemeanor, a fine of $390 to $1,000, a four- or five-year license revocation, and a three- or four-year IID mandate. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352 subd. (a)(6)-(7); 23550.5, subds. (b), (c) & (d); 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)-(2).)

10) Requires the prosecutor, if the prosecution agrees to a plea of guilty or no contest to reckless driving in satisfaction of, or as a substitute for, an original charge of a DUI—also known as a wet reckless—to state for the record a factual basis for the satisfaction or substitution, including whether or not there had been consumption of an alcoholic beverage or ingestion or administration

of a drug, or both, by the defendant in connection with the offense. Provides that a wet reckless is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for 5 to 90 days, or by a fine of $145-1,000, or both. (Veh. Code, §§ 23103.5, subd. (a); 23103, subd. (c).)

11) Provides that gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice aforethought, in the driving of a vehicle, where the driving was driving under the influence, and the killing was either the proximate result of the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, and with gross negligence, or the proximate result of the commission of a lawful act that might produce death, in an unlawful manner, and with gross negligence. Provides that gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for 4, 6, or 10 years. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 191.5, subds. (a), (c).)

12) Provides that vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice aforethought, in the driving of a vehicle, where the driving was driving under the influence, and the killing was either the proximate result of the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, but without gross negligence, or the proximate result of the commission of a lawful act that might produce death, in an unlawful manner, but without gross negligence. Provides that vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or imprisonment in the county jail for 16 months, 2 years, or 4 years. (Pen. Code, § 191.5, subd. (b).)

13) Requires that a person convicted of a violation of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated that occurred within seven years of two or more separate convictions for wet reckless or DUI, or any combination, be designated as a habitual traffic offender for three years subsequent to the conviction. (Pen. Code, § 193.7.)

14) Requires the DMV to immediately to revoke the privilege of a person to drive a motor vehicle upon receipt of a duly certified abstract of the record of a court showing that the person has been convicted of any of the following crimes or offenses:

    a) Vehicular manslaughter, except vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence.

b) Conviction of three or more violations of hit and run, hit and run causing injury, reckless driving, or reckless driving causing injury, great bodily injury, or specified injuries, within a period of 12 months from the time of the first offense to the third or subsequent offense, or a combination of three or more convictions of violations within the same period.
c) Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated when the person was operating a vessel, or fleeing or attempting to elude a pursuing peace officer, causing serious bodily injury resulting in a serious impairment of physical condition, including, but not limited to, loss of consciousness, concussion, serious bone fracture, protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ, and serious disfigurement. (Veh. Code, § 13351, subd. (a).)

15) Prohibits the DMV from reinstating the person's revoked driving privilege until the expiration of three years after the date of revocation and until the person whose privilege was revoked gives proof of financial responsibility, as defined. (Veh. Code, § 13351, subd. (b).)

This bill:

1) Requires the DMV, beginning January 1, 2031, to revoke a person's driving privilege upon conviction of a DUI causing bodily injury when the person has four or more prior convictions within a 10-year period for impaired driving offenses

2) Prohibits DMV from reinstating that person's driving privileges until the expiration of 72 months after the date of revocation, subject to certain requirements including the installation of IID.

3) Requires, until January 1, 2033, a person convicted of DUI causing bodily injury with four or more prior convictions within a 10-year period for impaired driving offenses to install and maintain an IID for 72 months.

Background

This bill authorizes the DMV to revoke a person's driver's license for eight years if the person is convicted of three or more specified impaired driving offenses. This bill authorizes the DMV to revoke a person's driving privileges for eight years if they are convicted of three or more of the following offenses, or any combination, where each of the three or more violations occurred within 10 years: 1) gross

vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, 2) vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated within seven years of two or more priors; 3) vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated while operating a vessel; 4) a DUI with two priors; 5) a DUI with three or more priors; 6) a DUI causing bodily injury with two or more priors; 7) a DUI or DUI causing bodily injury within 10 years of certain impaired driving felonies; and 8) a DUI causing bodily injury, where the violation proximately causes great bodily injury and occurred within 10 years of two or more priors. If a revocation is ordered, the DMV is prohibited from reinstating the person's driving privileges until the expiration of eight years after the date of revocation and until the person provides proof of financial responsibility, except as specified below.

Similar to existing DUI license suspensions and revocations, and particularly, the existing 10-year revocation option, this bill authorizes a person to apply for a restricted license. Specifically, it authorizes a person to apply to have their driving privileges reinstated four years from the date of the last conviction of an offense specified above, conditioned on the requirement that the person agrees to install and maintain an IID. The IID must remain on the person's motor vehicle for two years following reinstatement.

Most of the convictions that this bill applies to already receive either a four- or five-year license revocation. In addition, Vehicle Code section 23597 authorizes a court to order a 10-year license revocation for individuals convicted of three or more DUIs (the last of which is punishable pursuant to one of the repeat offender statutes). (Veh. Code, § 23597, subd. (a).) Similar to the provisions of this bill, a person subject to a 10-year license revocation may apply for a restricted license, conditioned on the installation of an IID on that person's vehicle, five years from the date of their last conviction. (Veh. Code, § 23597, subd. (c)(1).)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The DMV indicates that it would incur significant one-time costs to make necessary IT systems changes to create a new permissive license revocation and restricted license program. DMV's legacy systems have limited capacity to accommodate new functionality and are currently being replaced through the Enterprise Modernization Project (the Digital eXperience Platform, or DXP). As a result, implementation would either require modifications within DXP, potentially increasing project costs and/or delaying implementation, or development of a temporary solution outside the legacy environment, resulting in duplicative costs,

additional technology procurement, and requiring additional approvals. Assuming a temporary solution is required, implementation costs are expected to be at least in the low millions, and potentially higher, depending on the final scope of work, implementation timelines, and the technology solution ultimately required. Direct modifications to legacy systems would likely result in significantly higher costs. Staff notes that DMV would be unable to make the necessary programming changes by the January 1, 2027 operative date of this bill. (Motor Vehicle Account)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Active San Gabriel Valley
Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Bahati Foundation
Bethel Unspeakable Joy Christian Church
Bike Oven
BikeLA
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California District Attorneys Association
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
Car-Lite Long Beach
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Healthy Active Street
LA Critical Mass
League of California Cities
Liam's Life Foundation
Livable Communities Initiative
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Move LA
Move Santa Barbara County
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Napa County Bicycle Coalition
National Coalition for Safer Roads
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Ride of Silence
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
Safety and Advocacy for Empowerment
San Bernardino County
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets
Santa Ana Police Officers Association
South Pas Active
Stop 4 Aidan
Street Racing Kills
Streets are for Everyone
Streets for All
Upland Police Officers Association
Vivid Candi
Walk 'n Rollers
Walk San Francisco Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

ACLU California Action
California Public Defenders Association
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
La Defensa
Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union, Local 148

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bryan, Elhawary, Kalra, Lee, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /916-651-4118
8/24/26 13:44:10

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1699
Author: Rogers (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 8-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Good Fire Act: Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: burn bosses: California Environmental Quality Act

SOURCE: Pacific Forest Trust

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Good Fire Act, which indefinitely extends the Prescribed Fire Liability Program, and makes changes to the program and other relevant laws to advance the implementation of prescribed fire throughout the state.

Senate floor amendments of 8/20/26 create consistency between this bill and AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris), eliminating chaptering conflicts.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) §4477:
   a) Requires the State Fire Marshal (SFM), with the involvement of the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee, to develop a curriculum for, or amend into an existing curriculum, a certification program for burn bosses, who possess authority to engage in a prescribed burning operation and to enter into the necessary contracts related to a prescribed burning operation. The curriculum shall provide for the initial certification as well as the continuing education of burn bosses.
   b) Requires the Department to develop a training program for prescribed fire users to certify professionals in any agency or organization as burn bosses. Requires the Department to certify these individuals to a common standard. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department use its discretion to ensure that burn bosses are thoroughly qualified to engage in prescribed burning operations prior to issuing certifications.
   c) Requires the SFM to post and update on its internet website the number of burn bosses with an active burn boss certification.
2) Declares cooperation by the Department with a person desiring to use prescribed burning as a means of converting brush-covered lands into forage lands or to help meet wildland management goals, which has as its objective the prevention of high intensity wildland fires, watershed management, range improvement, vegetation management, forest improvement, wildlife habitat improvement, restoring ecological integrity and resilience, community wildfire protection, carbon resilience, or enhancement of culturally important resources a public purpose. (PRC §4491)
3) Authorizes a person, firm, or corporation, or a group or combination of persons, firms, corporations, or groups, that owns or controls brush-covered land, forest lands, woodland, grassland, shrubland, or any combination thereof within a state responsibility area (SRA) to apply to the Department for permission to utilize prescribed burning for those public purposes in PRC §4491. (PRC §4492)
4) Requires, upon receipt of an application, the Department to inspect the land in company with the applicant to determine whether a permit shall be granted; to prescribe the manner in which the site for the prescribed burning shall be prepared; and, to require any precautions to be taken by the applicant as may be considered reasonable to prevent damage to the property of others by reason of the burning. (PRC §4493)
5) Authorizes the director of the Department to enter into an agreement with the owner or any other person who has legal control of any property, any public

agency with regulatory or natural resource management authority over any property that is included within any wildland, or any nonprofit organization to conduct joint prescribed burning operations that serve the public interest and are beneficial to the state. Requires the agreement to establish guidelines for the cooperative management of joint prescribed burning operations and requires the completion of a project agreement for each prescribed burn. (PRC §4497)

6) Defines "burn boss" as a person certified pursuant to PRC §4477 to conduct prescribed burning operations and to enter into contracts related to prescribed burning operations; or, a person qualified for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group position title of "Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1" or "Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2." (PRC §4500 (a))
7) Establishes the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program to increase the pace and scale of the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning and to reduce barriers for conducting prescribed fires and cultural burning. (PRC §4500 (b))
8) Establishes the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (Claims Fund) to support coverage for losses from prescribed fires and cultural burning by nonpublic entities, such as cultural fire practitioners, private landowners, and nongovernmental entities. Requires moneys in the fund to be under the control of the Department, and the Department, or the third-party administrator with whom the Department contracts, is authorized to direct payments for claims from the Fund. (PRC 4500 (c)(1))
9) Establishes CEQA to provide a process to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided, and provides specified exemptions for wildfire risk reduction projects. (PRC §21000 *et seq*.)

This bill:

1) Establishes that the SFM, as part of the continuing education of burn bosses, shall require recertification no sooner than every three years.
2) Requires the Department to consider methods to increase the pool of available instructors for the certification program, including the use of nondepartment instructors.
3) Requires the Department, in consultation with the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee, to develop a mechanism to allow individuals certified as prescribed fire managers under other certification programs to be designated as a state-certified burn boss, and to allow that person to use the SFM recertification process to maintain currency.

4) Specifies that changes made to PRC §4477 by this bill do not alter, expand, or limit the applicable standard of care related to prescribed fires and cultural burning under California law.
5) Authorizes the Department to waive the inspection of land proposed to be burned by a private person for a burn application submitted by certain qualified prescribed fire managers.
6) Authorizes the Department to modify standard precautions, undertaken by the applicant to prevent damage to the property of others by burning, for a burn application submitted by certain qualified prescribed fire managers.
7) Specifies that changes made to PRC §4493 by this bill do not alter, expand, or limit the applicable standard of care related to prescribed fires and cultural burning under California law.
8) Specifies that state bodies awarding funding that pays for individuals involved in beneficial fire projects to include overtime or double rates of pay as an allowable expense when such expenses are necessary for the implementation of the project.
9) Establishes that the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (Claims Fund) applies to prescribed fires and cultural burning conducted by individuals and entities other than the Department or the federal government and on any lands within the state.
10) Specifies that, for a claim to be paid from the Claims Fund, the burn plan must have been approved by the Department or a burn boss before the prescribed fire or cultural burn.
11) Requires that a burn plan be submitted to the Claims Fund portal prior to ignition.
12) Requires the Department develop methodologies for prioritizing broadcast burns and burns by nonpublic individuals or entities or California Native American tribes in the event the Claims Fund is oversubscribed.
13) Specifies that changes made to PRC § 4500 by this bill do not alter, expand, or limit the applicable standard of care related to prescribed fires and cultural burning under California law.
14) Requires the Department, no later than one year after a claim is paid from the fund, to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the claims process.
15) Exempts from CEQA certain wildfire risk reduction projects to actions taken by the Department to assist in the implementation of prescribed fire or cultural burning projects that do not otherwise require compliance with CEQA.

16) Amends the Forest Improvement Grant Program to require grantees to file accountability reports with the Department six months from the date of receiving funds and every six months thereafter.

17) Replaces a reference to the Office of Planning and Research to the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

18) Makes findings and declarations relevant to the value of prescribed burning in California.

19) Establishes this bill as an urgency statute.

20) Includes chaptering out amendments with AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris)

Background

Executive action. Last year, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order (EO) N-35-25 expressing concern that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations would prevent, hinder, or delay the use of beneficial fire to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property.

Codifying the EO. This bill is largely an effort to codify the Governor's EO.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

- By removing the sunset on the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund and significantly expanding the universe of eligible entities, this bill would create ongoing General Fund cost pressures of an unknown amount, possibly in the low to tens of millions of dollars annually.
- By prohibiting a state entity that awards grant funds for beneficial fire projects from restricting those funds for use as payment for overtime or double rates of pay, this bill potentially creates cost pressures on various grant funds.
- The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Pacific Forest Trust (sponsor)
3 Suns Farm
All Hands Ecology
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
American Rivers
Berkeley; City of
Biswell Forestry
Briceland Volunteer Fire Department
Burnbot INC.
Cal Poly Humboldt Fire Resilience Institute
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Cattlemen's Association
California Environmental Voters
California Forward (ca Fwd)

California Indian Environmental Alliance
California Licensed Foresters Association
California Native Plant Society
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
California Tahoe Alliance
California Tribal Business Alliance
Californians for Western Wilderness
Calwild
Campfire Restoration Project
Camptonville Community Partnership
Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association
Central Coast State Parks Association
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
Colusa County Resource Conservation District
Community Wildfire Planning Center
Confluence West
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Cross Contour LLC
Cultural Fire Management Council
Danoxa Fish and Wildlife, Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California
Defenders of Wildlife
Ecoflight
Elevate California
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Fave Trainings
Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)
Firegen
Firegeneration Collaborative
Firewerx
Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program
Forevergreen Forestry
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
Friends of the Lost Coast
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Hayfork Prescribed Burn Association
Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
Humboldt Fire Resilience Institute
Hyampom Prescribed Burn Association
Indigenous Stewardship Network
Karuk Tribe
Keep Tahoe Blue
Klamath Forest Alliance
Lake County Land Trust
Los Angeles Prescribed Burn Association
Marin Resource Conservation District
Mattole Restoration Council
Megafire Action
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Mother Lode Land Trust
Mount Hermon Northwest
Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Nourishing Futures, 501 (C) (3)
Orange County Fire Authority
Orleans Volunteer Fire Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company and its Affiliated Entities
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Plumas Corporation
Plumas County Fire Safe Council
Plumas Underburn Cooperative
Prometheus Fire Consulting LLC
Rain

Rancho Aromitas Firewise Community (RAFC)
Resilience Force
Resource Renewal Institute
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Salmon River Restoration Council
San Benito Fire Safe Council
San Benito Resource Conservation District
San Luis Obispo Prescribed Burn Association
Santa Clara County Firesafe Council and South Bay Prescribed Burn Association
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm
Save Mount Diablo
Save the Redwoods League
Scott River Watershed Council
Sempervirens Fund
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Shasta; County of
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Consortium
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Solano Resource Conservation District
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Sonoma Ecology Center
Sonoma Land Trust
South Yuba River Citizens League
Spye Conservation INC.
Sugar Pine Foundation
Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
The Climate Center
The Fire Restoration Group
The Lookout
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlands Conservancy
Treepeople
Trees Foundation
Tribal Ecorestoration Alliance
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Trout Unlimited
Trust for Public Land
Tuolumne Prescribed Burn Association
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Watershed Research & Training Center
Western Watersheds Project
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wildlands Network
Wildlands Robotics
Wine Institute
Yolo County Fire Safe Council
Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Yolo Pba
Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative
Yosemite Rivers Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "For generations, California Tribes have stewarded the landscape with fire. This community wide effort created a safer and healthier ecosystem for all. Tragically, one of the first laws ever passed by this Legislature outlawed this practice. We restricted cultural burning practices and ignored that wisdom. We eventually set up a fire response system that extinguished all flames, even when they were desperately needed to clear overly dense vegetation and support fire dependent plants. AB 1699 is about righting that historic wrong. The use of beneficial fire, a prescribed fire, or a controlled burn are all examples of "Good Fire". We know all too well about the opposite, catastrophic wildfires that burn out of control. We need much more Good Fire to address that very real threat that far too many of us have learned to live with. We need to follow the leadership of our Tribes and build up the systems to use more Good Fire."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/24/26 13:45:52

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1707
Author: Davies (R)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Electricians: certification application, examination, and renewal

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill transfers authority over the certification of electricians from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature beginning July 1, 2028, pursuant to certain timelines and procedures, as specified.|

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 allow applicants for certification to provide verifiable work history as identified by the CSLB; require CSLB to determine the adequate level of supervision of apprentices through regulations; delete the $25 fee cap for initial registration as a trainee and a prohibition on CSLB charging a fee for registration renewal; remove CSLB requirements to certify electricians and register trainees prior to this bill's effective date and ; authorize CSLB to establish initial and renewal registration and certification fees; and make other technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the DLSE within the Department of Industrial Relations under the

direction of the Labor Commissioner. (Labor Code (LC) §79-107)

2) Requires DLSE to maintain minimum standards for the competency and training of electricians through a system of testing and certification. (LC §108)

3) Requires DLSE to maintain separate certifications for general electrician, fire/life safety technician, residential electrician, voice data video technician, and nonresidential lighting technician. (LC §108.2(c))

4) Requires DLSE to maintain an electrical certification curriculum committee comprised of representatives of the State Department of Education, the California Community Colleges, and the division to, among other things, establish written educational curriculum standards for enrollees in training programs. (LC §108)

5) Requires individuals who perform work as electricians to become certified pursuant to 2) above. (LC §108.2(a))

6) Provides that certification is required only for those persons who perform work as electricians for contractors licensed as class C-10 electrical contractors under the CSLB. (LC §108.2(b)(1))

7) Requires individuals desiring to be certified to submit to the DLSE an application for certification and examination that includes an employment history report from the Social Security Administration. (LC §108.2(b)(4))

8) Establishes CSLB to license and regulate contractors and home improvement salespersons. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 7000 et seq.)

9) Establishes four branches of contracting business in the following classifications: general engineering contracting (A), general building contracting (B1), residential remodeling contracting (B2), specialty contracting (C). (BPC § 7055)

10) Defines a C Specialty Contractor as those whose operations involve performance of construction work requiring special skill and whose principal contracting business involves the use of specialized building trades or crafts. (BPC § 7058)

11) Establishes an enforcement division within the CSLB to rigorously enforce the

Contractors License Law (license law), enforces the obligation to secure the payment of valid and current workers' compensation insurance and prohibit all forms of unlicensed activity, as specified. (BPC § 7011.4(a))

12) Mandates the CSLB to charge a fee of $20 with the renewal fee for an active C-10 license in addition to any other fees charged to C-10 contractors used by the CSLB to enforce provisions of the LC related to electrician certification. (BPC § 7137(6)(A)

This bill:

1) Transfers the entire electrician certification regulatory program from the jurisdiction of the DSLE and moves it under the jurisdiction of the CSLB beginning January 1, 2028, and makes the implementation of this program under the CSLB's jurisdiction contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature in the annual budget act, as specified. Requires the CSLB to utilize the current regulations under the DSLE for administration and enforcement of the electrician certification program until such time as the CSLB adopts regulations for enforcement and regulation of the electrician certification program. Requires the CSLB to determine through regulations the adequate level of supervision for apprentices.

2) Deletes the $25 fee cap for initial registration for a trainee under the CSLB and removes the prohibition on the CSLB from assessing a renewal fee.

3) Authorizes CSLB to establish initial and renewal registration and certification fees necessary to implement the electrician certification program.

4) Authorizes an individual who fails the electrician certification examination to reregister for certification and retake the examination no sooner than 21 days upon approval, as specified.

5) Limits the current electrician certification program under the jurisdiction of the DLSE to apply only to those applications received on or before July 1, 2028, and has continuing authority to perform any necessary action on applications received, including, but not limited to approving and denying applications and participating in any hearings regarding the denial of those applications.

6) Sunsets the electrician certification program under the jurisdiction of the DLSE on January 1, 2029, including the requirements in 3) above.

7) States that any electrician certification or trainee registration that is valid on the operative date of the transfer of oversight of the electrician certification program remain valid until its expiration according to its existing term and conditions.

Background

Current Electrician Certification Program Oversight. The DLSE is currently responsible for the registration and enforcement of the electrician certification program in California. LC § 108.2(a) requires individuals who perform work as electricians to become certified. Existing law prohibits uncertified individuals from performing electrical work for which certification is required. Individuals who perform electrical work for C-10 contractors licensed by the CSLB are required to obtain an electrician certification. Individuals who perform work for C-7 low voltage systems contractors or C-45 electric sign contractors do not need to obtain certification. C-10 licensed contractors may only employee individuals who have obtained the electrician certification from the DSLE. If a C-10 contractor is in violation of the certification law, their license is subject to discipline by the CSLB. The DSLE does not take enforcement actions against a licensed contractor, but rather a person who holds or should hold the electrician certification.

The DLSE is currently mandated to issue separate certifications for general, residential, fire/life/safety, non-residential lighting, and voice-data-video technicians. Certification requires 4,800-8,000 hours of experience depending on the type of certification, plus a passing score on the state exam. Currently, to apply for the exam, an applicant must mail an application and a check or money order for $175 ($100 exam fee and $75 administration fee) to DLSE. Additionally, the application must include a Social Security Administration employment history report and documentation of training hours. Once approved, DLSE sends the applicant an eligibility notice, and the applicant can then schedule their exam at a Pearson Vue test center, The number of questions and the length of the exam vary depending on the type of certification.

Electricians must renew their certification every three years by mailing an application and check or money order for $100 to DLSE. Renewal is contingent upon completion of 32 hours of approved continuing education and proof of at least 2,000 hours of work experience in the industry during that three-year period. The DSLE is also responsible for establishing the minimum competency and training of electricians and must maintain an advisory committee and panels including an electrical certification curriculum committee that determines the

curriculum standards for enrollees in training programs. In addition, the curriculum committee reviews education program providers to ensure they continue to meet the standards established by the curriculum committee. While certification is required for any person working for a C-10 contractor licensee, those who are in approved training programs register with the DSLE and can then perform work which requires electrician certification during the period of enrollment in the training program.

The Role of the CSLB and Electrician Certification Requirements. The CSLB is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the laws and regulations related to the licensure, practice and discipline of the construction industry in California. All businesses and individuals who by themselves or through others construct, alter, or repair, or offer to construct, alter, or repair, any building, highway, road, parking facility, railroad, excavation, or other structure in California must be licensed by the CSLB if the total cost, including both labor and materials of one or more contracts on the project is $1,000 or more. The CSLB issues four distinct license types, within three branches of contracting services, and separately registers home improvement salespersons. Each licensing classification specifies the type of contracting work permitted within that classification. There are The CSLB oversees approximately 240,000 licensed contractors. The CSLB does not approve or review any construction-related education providers nor have any established curriculum review committees. There are 43 specialty classifications within the (C) specialty licensure category, including the C-10 electrician. As a self-funded program, the CSLB relies solely on licensing, renewal, enforcement and other administrative fees and does not receive general fund support. Licensing fees are specified in statute and updated when necessary to ensure CSLB can perform its regulatory functions.

Specific to the electrician certification program, the CSLB is currently only responsible for ensuring that the C-10 employees meet the electrician certification requirements. BPC § 7137 requires the CSLB to charge a fee, not to exceed $20, for C-10 for enforcement of the electrician certification requirement. There are approximately 28,000 active C 10 contractors and if they use employees as prescribed in LC § 108.2, the CSLB must ensure that those employees are certified.

As currently drafted, this bill transfers the regulatory program from the DSLE to CSLB's jurisdiction. Pursuant to the provisions of this bill, the CSLB would be the entity responsible for maintaining an electrician certification program, including issuing certificates and renewals, establishing advisory committees and panels as

necessary, including establishing the education and curriculum standards for training programs and approving education providers. The current statutory requirements are lifted from the Labor Code and inserted into the Business and Professions Code. This bill does include a delayed implementation and allows the CSLB and the DSLE to utilize resources from the current electrician certification fund. This bill, as currently drafted, does not require a fee study of the new regulatory program at CSLB.

Comments

The current version of this bill does not provide a clear implementation pathway for the CSLB to begin its oversight of this regulatory program. Until the time the CSLB can adopt regulations, it will be required to abide by the current regulations in effect immediately preceding July 1, 2028, as promulgated under the DSLE, which includes locking the CSLB into a potentially outdated fee structure, a licensing and registration application and renewal process that may be inconsistent with existing practices, and a requirement to approve curriculum training programs, which CSLB currently does not undertake.

A few of the more important programmatic and implementation issues for consideration to ensure the CSLB can effectively administer the electrician certification program are as follows below.

This bill requires CSLB to issue electrician certifications. To become a certificate holder, a registrant must submit an application, qualify for an examination through on-the-job training or education that must be verified, and take and pass an examination. However, fees for the certification, examination, and renewal are not specified in this statute, but rather specified in the current regulations under the DSLE. Although the CSLB will be able to eventually promulgate regulations to implement the program, the regulatory process takes time, and the CSLB will be required to follow a fee structure that might not be sufficient. Without statutory authority to set a fee, CSLB may not be able to adopt regulations for the certification and examination fees.

Additionally, this bill requires each registrant’s completed coursework to be updated annually and requires the CSLB to maintain a list of registrants that must be made available upon request and does not set a limit on the number of years any registrant may remain on the list. Due to the renewal workload and estimated volume of registrants, consideration should be included to prescribe a registration renewal fee.

It is currently unknown whether the $100 fee will be the cost of the examination until CSLB executes a contract with its examination vendor. The CSLB currently contracts with PSI testing centers while the DSLE program utilizes Pearson Vue testing centers. It is unclear how the transfer of testing centers or testing center contracts will be implemented. The fee for the examination should be set to the cost to administer the examination to prevent the applicant from being overcharged or the CSLB from incurring losses. Additionally, to be consistent with other examination fees, fees should be paid directly to the vendor. This bill maintains that the CSLB collect the fee for the examination. It is unclear how the CSLB will then transfer payment to any testing center.

Contractors License Fund Should be Protected. Currently licensing, enforcement and administrative fees are collected in the Contractors License Fund. Regardless of whether the recommendations above are taken, existing licensees of the CSLB should not be responsible for subsidizing the electrician certification program through their current license and renewal fees. Their license fees pay to process their initial license and renewal fees fund administrative and enforcement functions of the CSLB. Taking on this program should not be to the detriment of licensees through reduced services, longer wait times, or higher fees. Importantly, consumers also should not notice a degradation in the quality of services provided by CSLB. Consequently, this bill should ensure that the money in the Contractors License Fund cannot be expended to implement or administer the electrician registration and certification program and that the electrician certification fund remain separate at this time of transition. Merging funds may be appropriate in the future after further assessment of electrician certification program under the jurisdiction of the CSLB.

Curriculum Committee. As currently drafted, this bill requires the CSLB to create and maintain an electrician certification curriculum committee which includes the State Department of Education, the California Community Colleges and the CSLB to establish standards for training programs, review approved curriculum and curriculum providers and remove approval of an approved provider.

The CSLB does not currently review or approve curriculum. California already has an entity with specific expertise in apprenticeship and workforce training. The Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) within the Department of Industrial Relations administers California's apprenticeship laws and has existing responsibility for the approval and oversight of apprenticeship programs and standards, including programs in the building and construction trades. Moreover, existing electrician-certification regulations expressly involve DAS in curriculum oversight. The current Electrician Certification Curriculum Committee is

established within the California Apprenticeship Council's regulatory framework, includes the Chief of DAS, or the Chief's designee, as a member, and requires the Chief of DAS or designee to serve as secretary to the committee.

Given DAS' existing expertise in apprenticeship and training standards, as well as its existing role on the Electrician Certification Curriculum Committee, responsibility for establishing and approving electrician training curricula would be more appropriately assigned to DAS, or another entity with expertise in vocational education and workforce training, rather than requiring CSLB to assume responsibility for an area outside its traditional contractor licensing and enforcement functions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, this bill would result in one-time and ongoing costs, likely exceeding $3 million annually, to CSLB to assume responsibility for the Electrician Certification Program, including staffing, examination administration, legal support, and information technology activities. Specifically, estimated costs include $1.2 million annually for staffing, $1.2 million annually for contracted examination and operational support, $300,000 annually for legal services, and one-time information technology transition costs of approximately $900,000, followed by ongoing IT support costs of approximately $450,000 annually (Electrician Certification Fund and Contractors License Fund). Costs to the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) would be minor and absorbable.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California State Association of Electrical Workers

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California State Association of Electrical Workers writes in support and notes, "AB 1707 improves the administration of California's electrician certification program by transferring oversight from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), placing certification for electricians under the same agency that already licenses and regulates electrical contractors. This alignment improves efficiency and coordination while maintaining the existing certification standards and qualifications that ensure electrical work is performed by trained and qualified professionals."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jackson, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Yeaphana LaMarr & Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. /916-651-4104
8/24/26 12:16:18

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1709
Author: Lowenthal (D), Alvarez (D), Bauer-Kahan (D), Bonta (D), Hoover (R), Muratsuchi (D), Patterson (R) and Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Jones, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Umberg

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 4-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Covered platforms: age restriction: e-Safety Advisory Commission

SOURCE: Organization for Social Media Safety

DIGEST: This bill prohibits "covered platforms" from providing an addictive feature to a user under the age of 16. The Attorney General (AG) may adopt regulations, as provided. This bill establishes the e-Safety Advisory Commission to advise the AG on, among other things, matters related to online safety.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Protecting Our Kids from Social Media Addiction Act, prohibits an operator of an addictive internet-based service or application, including a

social media platform, from providing an addictive feed, as defined, to a minor user. (Health & Safety (Saf.) Code § 27000 et seq.)

2) Defines "addictive feed" as an internet website, online service, online application, or mobile application, or a portion thereof, in which multiple pieces of media generated or shared by users are, either concurrently or sequentially, recommended, selected, or prioritized for display to a user based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the user, or otherwise associated with the user or the user's device, unless any of the following conditions are met, alone or in combination with one another:

   a) The information is not persistently associated with the user or user's device and does not concern the user's previous interactions with media generated or shared by others.
   b) The information consists of search terms that are not persistently associated with the user or user's device.
   c) The information consists of user-selected privacy or accessibility settings, technical information concerning the user's device, or device communications or signals concerning whether the user is a minor.
   d) The user expressly and unambiguously requested the specific media or media by the author, creator, or poster of the media, or the blocking, prioritization, or deprioritization of such media, provided that the media is not recommended, selected, or prioritized for display based, in whole or in part, on other information associated with the user or the user's device, except as otherwise permitted by this chapter and, in the case of audio or video content, is not automatically played.
   e) The media consists of direct, private communications between users.
   f) The media recommended, selected, or prioritized for display is exclusively the next media in a preexisting sequence from the same author, creator, poster, or source and, in the case of audio or video content, is not automatically played.
   g) The recommendation, selection, or prioritization of the media is necessary to comply with the act. (Health & Saf. Code § 27000.5(a).)

3) Requires, for purposes of the Protecting Our Kids from Social Media Addiction Act, the Attorney General to adopt regulations regarding age assurance by January 1, 2027. (Health & Saf. Code § 27006(b).)

4) Establishes the Digital Age Assurance Act, which establishes a device-based age verification system in which parents who allow their children to be the primary user of a device can enter a non-identifying age-bracket signal that

operating systems and application stores must send to application developers. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.500 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Prohibits a covered platform from providing an addictive feature to a user under the age of 16. It requires a covered platform to implement reasonable measures to ensure users under the age of 16 are not provided any addictive feature on their platform.

2) Requires a covered platform, before providing an addictive feature to a user, to verify the age of a user pursuant to the Digital Age Assurance Act, subject to regulation by the AG. Provides that, if a covered platform is unable to verify the age of a user pursuant to the Act, then the platform shall instead rely on age determination made pursuant to regulations made by the AG under the Protecting Our Kids from Social Media Addiction Act.

3) Provides that the AG may adopt regulations to implement and enforce these provisions.

4) Provides that the AG may alter the scope of "covered platform" if they determine that doing so is necessary to ensure that a "covered platform" applies to websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that make addictive features available to users under the age of 16.

5) Provides that a covered platform that violates the above provisions shall be subject to a civil penalty, brought only by the AG or a local public prosecutor, of up to $50,000 per affected minor for a knowing violation and $25,000 per affected minor for a negligent violation. Requires a court to consider the size of a covered platform, the severity and duration of the violation, and the platform's good faith efforts to comply when assessing a civil penalty.

6) Establishes the e-Safety Advisory Commission as an independent advisory commission only for administrative purposes within the Department of Justice. Provides that the commission is purely advisory and shall not be considered a part of the Department of Justice for any other purpose.

7) Requires the e-Safety Advisory Commission to consist of members who possess relevant experience and include individuals with expertise or experience in one or more of the following areas:

    a) Pediatrics.
    b) Child psychology, adolescent psychology, or social psychology.

c) Technology.
d) Civil society organizations with expertise in children's online safety or public health.
e) Advocacy on behalf of marginalized youth, including, but not limited to, LGBTQ+ youth, youth of color, foster youth, or youth with disabilities.
f) Academia or research related to child development, public health, or online safety.
g) Education, specifically K-12 education.

8) Provides that the commission may advise the AG on the following:

a) The state of age assurance technologies.
b) Feedback from social media users, parents of minors, and online safety and children's safety organizations regarding implementation of California's online safety laws.
c) The differential impact of online age restrictions on various groups.
d) Harmful design features in covered entities and their impacts on youth health and well-being.
e) Safety practices of covered entities to protect children.
f) State agency rulemaking under Section 22685 of the Business and Professions Code.

9) Requires the commission to report to the Legislature and Governor all of the following:

a) The commission's activities.
b) Proposed actions taken and statutory changes.
c) Recommendations for legislative changes to enhance the protections of minors online.

Background

Since its inception, social media has exploded in popularity. People around the world use social media to connect with like-minded others, find various resources, and entertain themselves. However, these benefits did not come without a heavy price: a price that is felt the most by children. Youth mental health problems are skyrocketing, while digital consumption only increases. Social media use has been linked to increasing depression, anxiety, suicidality, eating disorders, and countless other harmful effects.

In response, this bill prohibits "covered platforms," including social media platforms, from providing an addictive feature to children under 16 years of age and requires the platforms to verify users' ages pursuant to the Digital Age Assurance Act before providing users with an addictive feature. The AG is authorized to promulgate necessary regulations and to alter the scope of what is considered a "covered platform," as necessary. The bill also stands up the e-Safety Advisory Commission as an independent advisory body to provide advice and recommendations to the AG on various topics.

The bill is sponsored by the Organization for Social Media Safety. It is supported by a variety of groups, including the California Initiative for Technology & Democracy and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The bill is opposed by a wide variety of groups, including Chamber of Progress and ACLU California Action. For a more thorough analysis, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis of this bill.

Comment

According to the author:

> AB 1709 would establish a state-wide minimum age requirement for users to create or maintain accounts on social media platforms that use addictive feeds as a significant part of the service provided by their platform. This bill is grounded in a substantial and growing body of research showing that early and unrestricted access to social media can harm children's mental health, cognitive development, and overall well-being. Children under 16 face heightened risks online, including compulsive use patterns, exposure to harmful content, and negative mental health outcomes. These risks are not incidental but are closely tied to how modern social media platforms are designed. Many platforms rely on algorithmically driven feeds that prioritize engagement, often by delivering highly stimulating or emotionally charged content. This design encourages prolonged use and can foster addictive behaviors, particularly in younger users whose self-regulation skills and executive functioning are still developing.
>
> By requiring platforms to implement meaningful age verification and prevention measures, the bill shifts responsibility from individual users to the companies that control access and design. This approach aims to reduce early exposure to addictive platform features during a key developmental window and to encourage safer, age-appropriate digital environments.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Major costs to the Department of Justice, including enforcing the social media ban provisions and rulemaking. (General Fund)

Significant to major costs annually to establish an e-Safety Advisory Commission. Costs may vary widely by year depending on workload. (General Fund)

Potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate new penalties depending on violations that may be unique to every platform. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Organization for Social Media Safety (Source)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Bright Light Strategies
California Catholic Conference
California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a Project of California
Common CAUSE
Children's Advocacy Institute
Common Sense Media
Distraction-free Schools California
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Mama - West LA

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/2026)

ACLU California Action
Advocates for Youth
American Innovators Network
Chamber of Progress
Children's Online Safety and Privacy Research

Civil Justice Association of California
Colage
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Educateus
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Fight for the Future
Gen-z for Change
If/when/how: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Internet.works
Lawyers for Good Government
Lgbt Tech
Netchoice
Secular Education Association
Siecus: Sex Ed for Social Change
Technet
The Nexus of Privacy
Woodhull Freedom Foundation

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Organization for Social Media Safety writes:

> AB 1709 is aimed at the mechanics of addictive platform design, not protected speech or online content. AB 1709 draws the correct public-safety line: children under 16 should not have to choose between social participation and exposure to addictive, compulsive-use design.
>
> AB 1709 is a reasonable, evidence-based response to a well-documented problem. Younger adolescents should not be expected to navigate products engineered to capture and hold their attention during a critical stage of development, where the available evidence clearly and convincingly shows both the serious harms of these products and long-standing internal awareness by the companies themselves.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of industry groups, including Technet, write:

> To be clear, our companies recognize the impacts their platforms can have and are committed to being part of the solution. However, social media is one factor, and any "solution" that ignores the scientific research, the individualized nature of mental health and the many other stressors impacting young people today, like academic pressure,

school safety, socio-economic challenges, and substance abuse, is not actually responsive to this complex problem.

Against this backdrop, AB 1709 applies a blunt, one-size-fits-all restriction to a highly individualized issue. If passed and signed, this bill completely cuts off access, while the research instead identifies use patterns, individual vulnerability, and context as the relevant risk factors. The bill would eliminate the benefits that many teens find in social media and sever youth in marginalized communities from their online communities.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Wilson

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548, Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/17/26 10:38:11

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1715
Author: Schiavo (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 14-2, 6/16/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado, McNerney, Niello, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Wahab
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-8, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public utilities: reporting

SOURCE: The Utility Reform Network

DIGEST: This bill requires quarterly reporting by electrical and natural gas corporations regarding federal funding received from federal or other funds. This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to ensure any savings are delivered to customers; requires the CPUC to impose penalties on electrical and natural gas corporations for failing to comply with the required reporting; and requires the CPUC to annually report to the Legislature information reported by electrical and gas corporations pursuant to the quarterly reports.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 are minor and clarifying to address requests from the CPUC, including removing specific reference to a CPUC adopted resolution and references to pursuant to federal law.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes and vests the CPUC with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and gas corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)

2) Authorizes the CPUC to fix the rates and charges for public utilities and requires those rates and charges to be just and reasonable. (Public Utilities Code §451)

3) Authorizes the CPUC to inspect the accounts, books, papers, and documents of any public utility, or any affiliate, subsidiary, or holding corporation of that utility; and to examine under oath any officer, agent, or employee of such a utility in relation to its business and affairs. (Public Utilities Code §314)

4) Requires every public utility to furnish to the CPUC all information the CPUC requests, including tabulations, computations, maps, reports, books, and records. (Public Utilities Code §§581, 582, 585)

5) Establishes information provided by utilities to the CPUC is confidential and not open to public inspection unless ordered by the CPUC. Makes unauthorized disclosure by CPUC personnel a misdemeanor. (Public Utilities Code §583)

6) Requires the CPUC to determine and fix, by order, the just, reasonable, or sufficient rates, classifications, rules, practices, or contracts to be thereafter observed and in force whenever it finds, after a hearing, the rates or classifications, demanded, observed, charged, or collected by any public utility for or in connection with any service, product, or commodity, or the rules, practices, or contracts affecting such rates or classifications are insufficient, unlawful, unjust, unreasonable, discriminatory, or preferential. (Public Utilities Code §728)

7) Requires electrical corporations and gas corporations to submit various information to the CPUC and requires the CPUC to annually report to the Legislature on, among other things, all sources and amounts of funding and actual and proposed expenditures, including any costs to ratepayers, related to entities or programs established by the CPUC. (Public Utilities Code §910.4)

8) Requires the CPUC to prepare a report on the costs of programs and activities conducted by the major electric and gas IOUs. (Public Utilities Code §913)

This bill:

1) Requires each utility, defined as an electrical corporation or gas corporation, to report certain information for any taxpayer funding greater than or equal to $1 million that the utility has applied for or received.

2) Defines "taxpayer funding" to mean any funds received from public entities in the form of grants, loans, or bonds that were appropriated by the U.S. Congress and provided under specified federal laws, including the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act.

3) Requires each utility to include specified information in quarterly reports.

4) Requires the CPUC, for each application in which a utility is seeking ratepayer funding, to require the utility to report all relevant taxpayer funding greater than or equal to $1 million that the utility is pursuing or has secured.

5) Authorizes the CPUC to impose a penalty against the utility if the CPUC determines that a utility is not in compliance with the reporting requirements.

6) Requires the CPUC to require each utility to deliver to ratepayers the financial benefits of taxpayer funding received, including all value to or savings expected to benefit ratepayers.

7) Requires the CPUC, by January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to provide an annual report to the Legislature with a summary of the information on taxpayer funding reported by each utility, including the number of grants or loans, the source of those grants or loans, the dollar amount received, the projects funded by the grants or loans, and the demonstrated ratepayer savings.

8) Repeals the provisions of this bill on January 1, 2037.

Background

Resolution E-5254. In April 2023, the CPUC adopted Resolution E-5254, *Adopts Procedural Mechanisms for Review and Approval of Electric and Gas Investor-Owned Utility Cost Recovery Requests for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Other Federal Grant Programs*, which formalized tracking of electric and natural gas IOU federal funding opportunities. Resolution E-5254 establishes procedural mechanisms for California's electric and gas IOUs to seek cost recovery for expenses (i.e., matching funds and tax liabilities) associated with federal grant programs, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

(IIJA), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act (CHIPS).

In response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-5-24 concerning addressing utility bill affordability, the CPUC summarized some of the various federal funding opportunities California's IOUs have secured and reported as part of Resolution E-5254, as shown below.

Summary of Federal Funding Secured by Electric IOUs
(Source: CPUC)

Applicant	Project	Award Amount	Description
PG&E, SCE, CEC, CPUC, CAISO, UC Berkeley	CHARGE-2T (California Harnessing Advanced Reliable Grid Enhancing Technologies for Transmission	$600 million federal share/ $901 million ratepayer share	Reconductor 100+ miles of transmission lines to increase transmission capacity.
PG&E, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt	Tribal Energy Resilience and Sovereignty (TERAS) Project	$88 million federal share/ $89 million ratepayer share	Implement nested microgrids serving Hoopa Valley, Yurok, Karuk, and Blue Lake Rancheria tribal lands to reduce outage durations.
Liberty Utilities	Project Leapfrog	$13 million federal share/ $13 million ratepayer share	Upgrade distribution system for real-time information gathering and faster outage management.
CPUC, CEC, CA Infrastructure Economic Development Bank, CA Labor & Workforce Development Agency	Solar for All (EPA Award)	$249.8 million	Deliver residential solar for low-income and disadvantaged communities across the state. [Subject of litigation]
PG&E	Maintaining & Enhancing Hydroelectricity Section 247 (US DOE Award)	$34.5 million for 39 projects	Maintain and improve hydropower facilities.
PG&E	Project Polaris	$15 billion loan	Expand hydropower generation and battery storage, upgrade transmission capacity through reconductoring and grid enhancing technologies, and enable virtual powerplants.

Pacific Gas & Electric's $15 Billion Loan. The largest of these federal funding amounts is a $15 billion loan from the Department of Energy (DOE) to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). Announced in December 2024, the $15 billion loan is to modernize PG&E's power grid and expand clean energy infrastructure across Northern and Central California. This initiative, known as Project Polaris, is part of the DOE's Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment program under the IRA. The loan's key objectives include refurbishing PG&E's 61 hydroelectric powerhouses, supporting the expansion of battery energy storage systems, upgrading transmission lines through reconductoring and grid-enhancements, and deploying virtual power plants. The loan is expected to support ongoing job creation and community investment, as well as generate an estimated $1 billion in customer savings, according to PG&E, over the life of the loan.

Advice letters. An advice letter is a document prepared by a utility to request action by the CPUC, including approval, authorization, or other relief. Most commonly, advice letters are requests for a tariff change, such as an informal request for approval to furnish service under rates, charges, terms or conditions other than those contained in the utility's approved rates and terms and conditions. Statute has largely deferred to the CPUC to adopt rules and procedures for addressing advice letters. Advice letters are procedurally less formal than other proceedings at the CPUC that require more judicial-type elements of an evidentiary hearing. Advice letters are classified into three tiers, ranging from Tier 1 to Tier 3. Tier 1 advice letters generally become effective upon filing of the advice letter. However, Tier 3 advice letters require commissioners to hear the item and take a vote at a publicly noticed meeting.

CPUC Rules. Advice letter filings are governed largely under CPUC General Order 96-B. The rules include provisions related to classification of the advice letters, public notice requirements, and specified requirements by industry (such as water, energy, or telecommunications). Additionally, General Order 173 provides additional rules associated with the filing and disposition of advice letters related to certain transactions transferring interests in utility property valued at $5 million or less, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 851.

Comments

Need for this bill. The author states:

> Californians are suffering under high electricity rates that are only expected to grow in the coming years to pay for wildfire safety measures and needed grid infrastructure and resiliency projects. Alternative financing structures, such as

> the $15 billion Department of Energy loan to Pacific Gas and Electric, are key strategies to reduce the growth of customer energy bills. Lower financing costs projected from taxpayer funded loans or grants are savings that should be passed on to ratepayers. Assembly Bill 1715 will ensure frequent and transparent reporting on the use of public funds by investor-owned utilities, so Californians can be confident their dollars are going towards lowering their energy bills.

Concerns about ratepayer impacts. The $15 billion loan to PG&E from the U.S. DOE has the potential to reduce costs for customers. Public financing, with lower interest rates compared to traditional lending offer potential savings for ratepayers. The sponsors of this bill, The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and others, acknowledge the potential benefits of the funding and have generally advocated for alternative financing to reduce costs to ratepayers. These include tapping into federal funding opportunities, along with any provided by the state, such as the alternative transmission financing from SB 254 (Becker, Chapter 119, Statutes of 2025). Though TURN supports these alternative financing approaches, they want to ensure there is appropriate accounting that will make certain savings for customers are realized. As such, they seek to codify many of the requirements in the CPUC Resolution requiring specified reporting of any federal funding secured from IRA, IIJA, and CHIPS. This bill also expands on those provisions to include any other funding sources or attempts to secure those funding sources.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2589 (Irwin, 2026) requires the CPUC to evaluate the full effect on public utilities' tax liabilities of the changes to corporate tax federal law and explicitly includes those changes as enacted by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, federal House Resolution 1 (Public Law 119-21). The bill is pending before the full Senate.

AB 1020 (Schiavo, 2025) included nearly identical language as this bill, except it did not include the requirement for a searchable database or the customer notices for advice letters. The bill was held by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2666 (Boerner, Chapter 413, Statutes of 2024) required the CPUC to review forecasted costs by electric and gas utilities on a more frequent basis after the approval of each general rate case (GRC), and to adjust the authorized revenue requirement in the subsequent GRC, as appropriate, based on actual past cost.

AB 3256 (Irwin, 2024) would have required the CPUC to annually determine if accounts of public utilities have achieved their intended purpose; and if not, to deny ratepayer recovery of the costs recorded therein and to limit the public utility in using such accounts. Additionally required the CPUC to include the status of utilities' accounts as part of an existing report. The bill was held by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 3264 (Petrie-Norris, Chapter 762, Statutes of 2024) included a suite of proposals to help address energy costs; these included requiring large electrical corporations, as defined, and large gas corporations, as defined, by January 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, to publish on their internet websites and provide to the CPUC a visual representation of certain cost categories included in residential electric or gas rates for the succeeding calendar year.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown but likely significant ongoing costs, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (ratepayer funds), for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to accept reports of any taxpayer funding a utility applied for or received, review and analyze any such report, report annually to the Legislature and, as necessary, pursue enforcement actions.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

The Utility Reform Network (Source)
Affordable Energy Campaign
Agricultural Energy Consumers Association
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
California Alliance for Community Energy
California Environmental Voters
California Large Energy Consumers Association
California Solar & Storage Association
Center of Race, Poverty and the Environment
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Climate Action Campaign
Consumer Federation of California
Earthjustice
Public Advocates Office
Small Business Utility Advocates

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

Coalition of California Utility Employees

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to The Utility Reform Network:

> By requiring strict reporting to the CPUC of non-traditional funding, such as public grants and loans, AB 1715 prevents for-profit, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) from being paid twice for the same projects. For every such funding agreement, IOUs will be required to submit detailed spending plans and quantify the savings expected to benefit ratepayers. Second, IOUs must disclose potential grants and loans in all related applications for ratepayer funding. Finally, the CPUC will ensure IOUs deliver savings to ratepayers and report back to the legislature.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the California Coalition of Utility Employees:

> As an initial matter, the bill would require an IOU, when seeking any ratepayer funding, to report to the California Public Utilities Commission all relevant nontraditional funding (e.g., federal grants or loans) the IOU applied for or received. If an IOU fails to comply with this requirement, the CPUC can impose a penalty, the amount of which is not defined. This provision of the bill could lead to substantial penalties simply for failing to report a nontraditional funding source (that an IOU may not have secured or ever will!). Even more troubling is the bill's requirement for an IOU to "promptly deliver" the financial benefits of nontraditional funding to ratepayers. This is a totally unrealistic requirement.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-8, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Chen, Ellis, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/24/26 13:49:40

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1729
Author: Lee (D), et al.
Amended: 5/18/26 in Assembly
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/17/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares, Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-7, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State employment: telework programs

SOURCE:
Association of California State Supervisors
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
California Association of Professional Scientists
California Attorneys Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment
Professional Engineers in California Government
Service Employees International Union, California
Service Employees International Union, Local 1000

DIGEST: This bill amends and renames the existing State Employee Telecommuting Program; requires state agencies to evaluate their (now named) telework programs every 10 years, as specified; requires state agencies to provide a detailed, written justification to CalHR and to the agency's employees if the agency requires its employees to report to a workplace; and requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to establish a telework dashboard displaying the cost benefits of state telework programs.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "telecommuting" to mean the partial or total substitution of computers or telecommunication technologies, or both, for the commute to work by employees residing in California. (Government Code § 14200)

2) Finds and declares the following:

   a) Telecommuting can be an important means to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion and to reduce the high costs of highway commuting.
   b) Telecommuting stimulates employee productivity while giving workers more flexibility and control over their lives.
   c) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage state agencies to adopt policies that encourage telecommuting by state employees to ensure the cost-effective and efficient delivery of services to taxpayers. (Government Code § 14200.1)

3) Requires state agencies to review work operations to determine where telecommuting provides them a practical benefit, and on or before July 1, 1995, to develop and implement a telecommuting plan, as specified. (Government Code § 142001)

4) Requires agencies that participated in specified experimental telework studies to continue and expand those programs, allows other agencies to offer telecommuting programs by partnering with a multiagency group that participated in the experimental studies, as specified, and requires the Department of General Services to establish an internal unit to oversee agency telecommuting programs and perform specified duties. (Government Code § 142001)

5) Requires each state agency to evaluate its telecommuting program and requires DGS to establish criteria for evaluating the state's telecommuting program and recommend modifications, if necessary. (Government Code § 142003)

This bill:

1) Denominates the "telecommute" program as the "telework" program and makes conforming changes to existing statute.

2) Finds and declares that telework schedules could reduce state-owned and leased office space by approximately 30% according to the Department of General Services, which the California State Auditor estimates could generate annual cost savings of as much as two hundred twenty-five million dollars ($225,000,000).

3) Updates statutory provisions by:

   a) Replacing references to reviewing telecommuting programs and with language that requires the development and implementation of telework programs, as specified.
   b) Requiring an agency to provide a detailed, written justification to CalHR and to the agency's employees where its unique operational needs and programmatic mission require employees to report to a workplace.

4) Requires DGS' specified unit responsible for developing telework guidelines to establish a telework dashboard that displays the cost-effectiveness and efficiency benefits of state telework programs, including documenting the annual savings to the state of reduced office space and operating costs, cuts in emissions and energy use, the decrease in vehicle miles traveled, and other benefits that save taxpayer dollars while delivering high-quality services to taxpayers.

5) Requires each state agency, every 10 years, to evaluate its telework program to ensure that it aligns with the state agency's unique operational needs to carry out its programmatic missions and to help recruit and retain a qualified workforce.

6) Contains an urgency clause, as specified.

Background

Dual Referral. The Senate Rules Committee referred this bill to the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee and to the Senate Governmental Organization Committee.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2672 (Cortese, Chapter 1209, Statutes of 1994) authorized state agencies to incorporate a telecommuting work option as an element of its transportation management programs, required state agencies to review work operations to determine where telecommuting provides them a practical benefit, and on or before July 1, 1995, to develop and implement a telecommuting plan, as specified.

AB 2963 (Klehs, Chapter 1389, Statutes of 1990) authorized agencies that participated in specified experimental telework studies to continue and expand those programs, as specified, and required the Department of General Services to establish an internal unit to oversee agency telecommuting programs and perform specified duties.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

"Current law requires state agencies to develop and implement telecommuting programs where telework is practical and beneficial, and requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to oversee statewide telework policies. Although these statutes date back to the 1990s, they have not been substantially updated despite the widespread expansion of telework during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the pandemic, many state employees continued working under hybrid telework schedules. In April 2024, Governor Newsom directed most state agencies to require employees to work in the office at least two days per week. In March 2025, the Governor issued Executive Order N-22-25 increasing the in-office requirement to four days per week. The order prompted collective bargaining disputes, an unfair practice charge before the Public Employment Relations Board, and a subsequent one-year delay in implementation. In response, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee directed the State Auditor to review the state's telework policies and return-to-office decisions.

In August 2025, the State Auditor concluded that the Administration could have made better use of available information on departmental operational needs, office space utilization, and costs before expanding return-to-office requirements. The audit found that 19 departments spent approximately $117 million in 2024-25 to maintain underutilized office space under the two-day-per-week policy and estimated statewide savings from broader telework could reach approximately $225 million. The Auditor also found that DGS had not established the telework evaluation criteria required by existing law, limiting departments' ability to assess the effectiveness and fiscal impacts of their telework programs."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

Association of California State Supervisors (co-source)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (co-source)
California Association of Professional Scientists, UAW Local 1115 (co-source)
California Attorneys Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment (co-source)
Professional Engineers in California Government (co-source)
Service Employees International Union, California (co-source)
Service Employees International Union, Local 1000 (co-source)
Association of California State Employees With Disabilities
California Faculty Association
California Federation of Labor Unions
City of Sacramento
Engineers & Architects Association
Statewide Disability Advisory Council
UAW Region 6
Worklife Law

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

Downtown Sacramento Partnership

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Professional Engineers in California Government: "AB 1729 will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, reduce traffic congestion and emissions, and allows the state to hire and retain state qualified staff during a period of ongoing wage freezes."

According to the Service Employees International Union, California: "Telework has proven to be a reliable and effective tool to maintain service delivery while improving working conditions and operational efficiency. AB 1729 helps ensure

that these programs are guided by data, consistency, and accountability across departments."

"Findings from the California State Auditor reinforce the value of telework. The Auditor identified that expanded telework can generate significant cost savings for the state, estimating up to $225 million annually, while also reducing the need for leased office space. At a time when the state must be thoughtful about both fiscal stewardship and workforce stability, this bill moves us in the right direction."

According to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: "AB 1729 also advances fairness and consistency across state service by establishing clearer expectations around telework eligibility and implementation. Our members have demonstrated their ability to meet performance standards and public service obligations while teleworking, and this bill helps ensure telework decisions are made transparently and equitably."

According to the Association of California State Supervisors: "AB 1729 will help maintain flexible telework policies for eligible state employees, including state supervisors and managers."

"AB 1729 reiterates legislative support for telework and recognizes that it has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient way to deliver services to California taxpayers. This bill also clarifies the existing telework statutes to require a state agency to identify operational needs, and provide detailed, written justification when employees are required to report to a workplace."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to the Downtown Sacramento Partnership: "At a time when state and local governments face persistent structural budget challenges, AB 1729 undermines taxpayer investments, weakens California's most productive economic centers, and erodes the tax base that funds essential public services.

State agencies serve as anchor institutions in employment centers throughout California. In Sacramento, they occupy more than 60% of the downtown office market, according to Department of General Services (DGS) and CoStar data.i As a result, state workplace policies carry significant economic and fiscal consequences – impacts that AB 1729 largely ignores.

While AB 1729 requires reporting on projected savings within state agencies, it provides no mechanism to evaluate the corresponding fiscal impacts shifted onto local governments and taxpayers. Property tax, sales tax, transit occupancy tax, and related revenues that fund essential public services throughout entire jurisdictions

depend on healthy, circular economic activity in high occupancy commercial centers. These fiscal outcomes are closely tied to land use and transportation policies that shape residential and employment patterns, infrastructure utilization, and regional mobility.

Policies that encourage permanent or predominantly remote work diminish the value of employment centers, weakening the economic clustering that drives commercial investment, business activity, and local tax generation. State telework policies reduce Sacramento's economic activity by more than $218.5 million annually, according to an estimate in a 2023 report by Varshey & Associates.ii Moreover, downtown Sacramento commercial office values have declined by $800 million since 2020.iii Those effects ultimately weaken the tax base local governments rely upon to fund police, fire, parks, education, infrastructure, and other essential services. These indicators demonstrate why evaluating only state-level office savings provides an incomplete fiscal picture."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-7, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Gallagher, Macedo, Petrie-Norris, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Aguiar-Curry, Castillo, Ellis, Johnson, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Glenn Miles / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/14/26 11:25:00

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1741
Author: Pacheco (D)
Amended: 6/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Sexual battery

SOURCE: Riverside District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill makes sexual battery, when committed after having entered an inhabited dwelling without consent, punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that any person who touches the intimate body part of another person while that person is unlawfully restrained by the accused or accomplice, and if the touching is against the will of the person touched and is for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, is guilty of sexual battery. This act is punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, and by a fine not exceeding $2,000; or by imprisonment in the state prison for 2, 3, or 4 years, and by a fine not exceeding $10,000. (Penal [Pen.] Code, § 243.4, subd. (a).)

2) States that sexual battery of another person who is institutionalized for medical treatment and who is seriously disabled or medically incapacitated is punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, and by a fine not exceeding $2,000; or by imprisonment in the state prison for 2, 3, or 4 years, and by a fine not exceeding $10,000. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (b).)

3) States that sexual battery of another person when the perpetrator fraudulently represented that the touching served a professional purpose is punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, and by a fine not exceeding $2,000; or by imprisonment in the state prison for 2, 3, or 4 years, and by a fine not exceeding $10,000. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (c).)

4) States that sexual battery of a person while that person is unlawfully restrained either by the accused or an accomplice, or is institutionalized for medical treatment and is seriously disabled or medically incapacitated, to masturbate or touch an intimate part of either of those persons or a third person is punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, and by a fine not exceeding $2,000; or by imprisonment in the state prison for 2, 3, or 4 years, and by a fine not exceeding $10,000. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (d).)

5) Makes all other types of sexual battery, including causing a person to masturbate or touch an intimate part of those persons or a third person against the victim's will, punishable as a misdemeanor by a fine not exceeding $2,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (e)(1).)

6) Provides that "touches," for the purpose of sexual battery, means physical contact with another person, whether accomplished directly, through the clothing of the person committing the offense, or through the clothing of the victim. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (e)(2).)

7) Defines "intimate part" for purposes of sexual battery as the sexual organ, anus, groin, or buttocks of any person, and the breast of a female. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (g)(1).)

8) Specifies that "sexual battery" does not include rape or sexual penetration. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (g)(2).)

9) Requires a person convicted of sexual battery to register as a sex offender. (Pen. Code, § 290, subd. (c).)

10) Specifies that the punishment for indecent exposure after having entered, without consent, an inhabited dwelling house, trailer coach, or the inhabited portion of any other building, is either imprisonment in the state prison, or in the county jail not exceeding one year. (Pen. Code, § 314.)

11) Specifies that the punishment for annoying or molesting a child under 18 after having entered, without consent, an inhabited dwelling house, or trailer coach, or the inhabited portion of any other building, is either by imprisonment in the state prison, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, and by a fine not exceeding $5,000. (Pen. Code, § 647.6, subd. (b).)

12) Provides that every person who enters any house, room, apartment, tenement, shop, warehouse, store, mill, barn, stable, outhouse or other building, tent, vessel, floating home, railroad car, locked or sealed cargo container, any house car, inhabited camper, vehicle when the doors are locked, aircraft, or mine or any underground portion thereof, with intent to commit grand or petit larceny or any felony is guilty of burglary. (Pen. Code, § 459, subd. (a).)

13) Defines "inhabited" for purposes of burglary to mean currently being used for dwelling purposes, whether occupied or not. (Ibid.)

14) States that every burglary of an inhabited dwelling house, vessel that is inhabited and designed for habitation, floating home, or trailer coach, or the inhabited portion of any other building, is burglary of the first degree. (Pen. Code, § 460, subd. (a).)

This bill:

1) Makes sexual battery when committed after having entered an inhabited dwelling or trailer coach, as defined, or the inhabited portion of any other building without consent an alternate felony-misdemeanor.

2) Requires that the sexual battery be committed in the dwelling house, trailer coach, or inhabited portion of any other building for this provision to apply.

Background

California's sexual battery statute, Penal Code section 243.4, includes five subdivisions that define sexual battery based on the defendant's conduct and set

the punishment for each respective situation. Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) cover situations where the defendant touches the intimate parts of the victim while the victim is unlawfully restrained, institutionalized for medical treatment, or not conscious of the sexual nature of the act because of a fraudulent representation. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subds. (a)-(c).) Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) are wobblers (i.e., either a felony or misdemeanor).

Subdivision (d) proscribes conduct different from the other sexual batteries. Subdivision (d) covers the situation where the defendant causes the victim to masturbate or touch the intimate part of the defendant or another person. Subdivision (d) is a wobbler, and like the other wobblers, subdivision (d) requires that the victim is unlawfully restrained or institutionalized for medical treatment, and the "touching" requires the victim to touch the skin of the defendant or another person's intimate parts. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subds. (d), (f).)

Subdivision (e) is misdemeanor sexual battery. (Pen. Code, § 243.4, subd. (e).) This subdivision covers situations where the defendant touches the intimate parts of the victim. For misdemeanor sexual battery, unlike subdivisions (a), (b), and (c), there is no requirement that the victim be unlawfully restrained, institutionalized for medical treatment, or not conscious of the sexual nature of the act. These differences make the misdemeanor definition broader than the wobbler definition, and as such, subdivision (e) proscribes a wider variety of conduct than subdivisions (a), (b), and (c).

Additionally, every person who enters any house, room, apartment, tenement, shop, warehouse, store, mill, barn, stable, outhouse or other building, tent, vessel, floating home, railroad car, locked or sealed cargo container, any house car, inhabited camper, vehicle when the doors are locked, aircraft, or mine or any underground portion thereof, with intent to commit grand or petit larceny or any felony is guilty of burglary. (Pen. Code, § 459, subd. (a).) "Inhabited" for purposes of burglary means currently being used for dwelling purposes, whether occupied or not. (*Ibid*.) Every burglary of an inhabited dwelling house, vessel which is inhabited and designed for habitation, floating home, or trailer coach, or the inhabited portion of any other building, is burglary of the first degree. (Pen. Code, § 460, subd. (a).)

This bill adds to the existing sexual battery statute a circumstance where a person commits an act of sexual battery after having entered an inhabited dwelling without consent. This offense would be punishable as a wobbler. This bill requires that the sexual battery be committed in the dwelling for this provision to apply.

Notably, there is already an existing statute that may be used to punish this conduct. Subdivision (b) of Penal Code section 220 makes a person who assaults another with intent to commit rape, sodomy, oral copulation, lewd and lascivious acts, or sexual penetration guilty of a felony. This crime is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for two, four, or six years. If the victim is under 18 years of age, the punishment is five, seven, or nine years. If the person commits this crime via first degree burglary, the punishment is life with the possibility of parole. For example, in one case in Fresno, a man entered an occupied home and groped a woman as she slept. He was charged with felony assault with intent to commit a sex offense. (*Fresno Man Arrested for Home Invasion, Groping Sleeping Woman*, GV Wire (July 18, 2025) <https://gvwire.com/2025/07/18/fresno-man-arrested-for-home-invasion-groping-sleeping-woman/ [as of Jun. 5, 2026].)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> Unknown costs to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to incarcerate if the felony sentence is imposed. Unknown costs to the counties to incarcerate if a one year misdemeanor sentence is imposed. Unknown, potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate new penalties depending on many unknowns, including the numbers of people charged and the factors unique to each case. Likely minor and absorbable costs to local law enforcement agencies for increased reporting of sex offender data to the Department of Justice Megan's Law website (local funds).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Riverside County District Attorney Office (source)
California District Attorneys Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

ACLU California Action
California Public Defenders Association
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Initiate Justice
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bryan, Chen, Elhawary, Gabriel, Garcia, Pellerin, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wicks

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /
8/15/26 12:03:12

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1755
Author: Sharp-Collins (D) and Lee (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: CalWORKS

SOURCE: Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
End Child Poverty California Powered by Grace
Parent Voices CA
SEIU CA

DIGEST: This bill deletes the rule that families with parents who work over 100 hours in a month are ineligible for assistance from the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which permits states to implement the program under a state plan. (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] section 601 et seq.)

2) Permits TANF financial assistance to any child that has been deprived of parental support or care by reason of the fact that his or her parent who is the

principal earner is employed less than 100 hours a month; or exceeds that standard for a particular month if his or her work is intermittent and the excess is of a temporary nature as evidenced by the fact that he or she was under the 100-hour standard for two prior months and is expected to be under the standard during the next month. (45 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] section 233.100)

3) Establishes the CalWORKs program to provide cash assistance and other social services for low-income families through the federal TANF program. Under CalWORKs, each county provides assistance through a combination of state, county, and federal TANF funds. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] section 11200 et seq.)

4) Establishes income, asset, and real property limits used to determine eligibility for the CalWORKs program and grant amounts based on family size and county of residence. (WIC section 11150-11160; WIC section 11450 et seq.)

5) Requires all individuals in the household who are 16 years of age or older, unless they are otherwise exempt, to participate in welfare-to-work activities as a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs. (WIC section 11320.3 and section 11322.6)

6) Establishes asset limits to determine eligibility for CalWORKs aid. Prohibits a CalWORKs applicant or recipient from receiving aid if they have countable resources over $10,000, or more than $15,000 if one member of the household is age 60 or older or has a disability, or if they have a vehicle valued over $25,000. Requires asset limits to be increased every year based on the California Necessities Index. (WIC section 11155)

7) Establishes that a child is considered deprived of parental support for the purposes of receiving CalWORKs benefits due to the unemployment of their parent or parents when a parent has worked less than 100 hours in the preceding four weeks and meets specified federal definitions of an unemployed parent. (WIC section 11201(b))

8) Establishes that a family receiving CalWORKs benefits with a child who is considered to be deprived of parental support due to unemployment may continue to receive assistance regardless of the number of hours their parent works, provided the family does not exceed the applicable gross or net income limits and is otherwise eligible for assistance. (WIC section 11201(c))

This bill:

1) Makes the requirement that a parent must not work more than 100 hours in the preceding four weeks in order to for their child to be considered deprived of parental support due to unemployment of the parent inoperative on July 1, 2027 or on the date the department notifies the Legislature that the Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation to implement this section, whichever date is later, and on January 1 of the following year, repealed.

2) Makes the current the provision that allows a family receiving CalWORKs benefits with a child who is considered to be deprived of parental support due to unemployment to continue to receive assistance regardless of the number of hours their parent works, provided the family does not exceed income limits and is otherwise eligible for assistance inoperative on July 1, 2027 or on the date the department notifies the Legislature that the Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation to implement this section, whichever date is later, and on January 1 of the following year, repealed.

3) Defines "unemployed parent" to mean a natural or adoptive parent with whom the child is living.

4) Makes a child to be considered to be deprived of parental support or care due to the unemployment of their parent, and therefore qualify for CalWORKs benefits, as long as the family's income does not exceed the applicable CalWORKs gross or net income limits and is otherwise eligible for assistance.

5) Allow California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to implement, interpret, or make specific the bill through all- county letters or similar written instructions until regulations have been adopted.

6) Makes this section operative on July 1, 2027, or on the date the department notifies the Legislature that the Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation to implement this section, whichever date is later.

Background

According to the author, "California's safety net should support families working to make ends meet, not penalize them for working additional hours. The current 100-hour rule in CalWORKs is an outdated policy that denies assistance to otherwise income-eligible families solely because a parent exceeds a monthly work-hour threshold. AB 1755 modernizes the program by eliminating this

obsolete barrier and ensuring eligibility is based on income and need rather than arbitrary hour limits. By removing a policy that discourages work, the bill promotes family stability, advances economic equity, reduces administrative burdens, and strengthens California's commitment to reducing child poverty and supporting working families."

CalWORKs. As California's version of the federal TANF program, CalWORKs is the state's largest anti-poverty program. CalWORKs provides temporary cash assistance aimed at moving children out of poverty and helping qualified low-income families meet their basic needs, such as rent, clothing, utility bills, food, and other items needed to ensure children are cared for at home and safely remain with their families. In addition to cash assistance, adult CalWORKs recipients are provided education, employment, and training services designed to help remove barriers to work and promote self-sufficiency. These services are typically outlined in a welfare-to-work plan. CDSS is the designated state agency responsible for program supervision at the state level, and counties are responsible for administering the program at the local level.

CalWORKs is funded through federal, state, county and realignments funds. The federal government gives the state a TANF block grant and CalWORKs receives a majority of that allocation. California and local governments spend a maintenance-of-effort amount as well, as required by federal law. The state also uses General Fund money for state-only programs and provides counties with a single allocation to fund many CalWORKs services. Funds from the 1991 realignment are also used to fund assistance payments and are part of the single allocation.

Eligibility for CalWORKs is based on family size, income level, and region. Families must show economic hardship through income and asset tests and participation in the program is time limited. Adults are only allowed to use CalWORKs for 60 months in their lifetime. Children of adults who receive cash aid can continue to receive benefits until they are 18 years old in California.

Welfare-to-Work. Adults who participate in CalWORKs are also required to participate in welfare-to-work activities, unless exempted, which include employment, education, job skills training, vocational education, work study on college campuses, on-the-job training, community service, and job retention services, or activities to address or remove barriers like mental health, substance use disorder, and domestic abuse. Eligible families can also receive supportive services like child care, transportation, ancillary expenses, mental health services, substance abuse services, and personal counseling.

CalWORKs Deprivation Standard. The state's CalWORKs deprivation standards were originally enacted to comply with federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) rules, which required two-parent families to take additional steps to prove deprivation in order to receive aid. The AFDC statute was replaced in 1996 with the TANF program, which emphasized work preparation in conjunction with receipt of the grant. One of the four core purposes of the TANF program is to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The deprivation test means that, to qualify for CalWORKs, a child in the family must be "deprived of parental support or care" due to the death, physical or mental incapacity, or incarceration of a parent; the unemployment of a parent or parents; or the continued absence of a parent, as defined. Consequently, the only way a two-parent household can meet the deprivation test is if the principal wage earner is unemployed, which is defined as working less than 100 hours a month, regardless of their income. The 100-hour work limit is a remnant of the prior AFDC law, which was based on the assumption that an average of 25 hours per week would put a family above the threshold to receive cash benefits.

Many states have modified or removed special requirements for two-parent units, but California remains one of the few states that has the 100-hour limit in statute. The elimination of this rule would allow county eligibility workers to evaluate applications based only on income limits and allow more families to receive benefits that would otherwise qualify. An evaluation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program found that when "the 100-hour and work history rules were removed, two-parent families were allowed to retain more of their earnings"[1]. Studies of the program have also found that rules like the 100-hour rule discourage employment rather than incentivize it. This bill would remove 100-hour work limit for purposes of determining if a family meets the deprivation standard.

Related/Prior Legislation:

AB 1324 (Sharp-Collins, 2025) would have made several changes to CalWORKs, including deleting the rule that families with unemployed parents who work over 100 hours in a month are ineligible for CalWORKs assistance and made changes to the extended subsidized employment program, including conducting a CalWORKs expansion feasibility study. AB 1324 was vetoed.

SB 996 (Kamlager, 2022) would have repealed the consideration of an individual's or family's assets as a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs and repealed the 100-

[1] Paula Roberts and Mark Greenberg. Marriage and the TANF Rules: A Discussion Paper. Center for Law and Social Policy. February 1, 2005

hour standard described above for purposes of determining a child's deprivation of parental support or care due to the unemployment of their parent. SB 996 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 371 (Mullin, 2015) would have removed the deprivation standard for purposes of determining eligibility for CalWORKs and would have instead required that aid be granted to a family if the family meets applicable eligibility requirements, without regard to the absence or employment status of the parent, among other changes to CalWORKs requirements. AB 371 was vetoed.

AB 1502 (Mullin, 2014) would have removed the deprivation standard for purposes of determining eligibility for CalWORKs and would have instead required that aid be granted to a family if the family meets applicable eligibility requirements, without regard to the absence or employment status of the parent, among other changes to CalWORKs requirements. AB 1502 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee: "Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely low millions, to eliminate the 100-hour rule limitation for child deprivation. Costs are related to grants, employment services, child care, and automation. Costs to counties for administration would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization (co-source)
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (co-source)
End Child Poverty California Powered by Grace (co-source)
Parent Voices CA (co-source)
California Association of Food Banks
California Family Resource Association
California Legislative Women's Caucus
Child Abuse Prevention Center and its Affiliates Safe Kids California, Prevent Child Abuse California and the California Family Resource Association; the County Welfare Diretors Association of California (CWDA)
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Los Angeles County
Seiu CA

Western Center on Law and Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Naima Ford Antal / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/17/26 10:42:49

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1767
Author: Berman (D)
Amended: 6/23/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Department of Consumer Affairs: public members of boards: conflicts of interest

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill defines "close family member" as including, but not limited to, a parent or child, for the purposes of avoiding conflict of interest when a public member is appointed to a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). Requires each board within DCA to adopt regulations to determine whether any relationship with a licensee of a board other than parent-child should prevent an individual from serving as a public member on that board within DCA.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the DCA comprised of specified boards, bureaus, and commissions vested with the authority to license and regulate various professions and vocations, and to enforce the standards and regulations set forth. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 100 *et. seq.*)

2) Defines "Board," for the purpose of identifying entities to which provisions relating to public members apply, as a board, advisory board, commission, examining committee, committee or other similarly constituted body exercising powers under the BPC. (BPC § 452)

3) Enumerates 38 entities that comprise the DCA, including 27 boards, one commission, and one committee. (BPC § 101)

4) Prohibits a public board member from being a current or past licensee of the board, or a close family member of a licensee, to avoid potential for a conflict of interest. (BPC § 450.2)

5) States that boards in DCA are established for the purpose of ensuring that those private businesses and professions deemed to engage in activities which have potential impact upon the public health, safety, and welfare are adequately regulated in order to protect the people of California. (BPC § 101.6)

6) Provides that each board comprising DCA exists as a separate unit, and has the functions of setting standards, holding meetings, and setting dates thereof, preparing and conducting examinations, passing upon applicants, conducting investigations of violations of laws under its jurisdiction, issuing citations and holding hearings for the revocation of licenses, and the imposing of penalties following those hearings, insofar as these powers are given by statute to each respective board. (BPC § 108)

7) Prohibits a public or lay member of a board under the DCA from being, or having been within the five years preceding their appointment, any of the following:

   a) An employer, officer, director, or substantially full-time representative of an employer or group of employers,

   b) A person maintaining a contractual relationship, or

   c) An employee. (BPC § 450)

8) Establishes an exception that a board member may be, or may have been within five years preceding their appointment, for purposes of relationships described in 4), engaged in an employment or contractual relationship with a licensee of the board so long as the relationship does not constitute more than two percent of the overall practice or business of the licensee. (BPC §§ 450(a) – 450(c))

9) Prohibits a public member from having any financial interest in any organization that is subject to regulation by the board of which they are a member either at the time of their appointment or during their tenure in office. (BPC § 450.3)

10) Prohibits a public or lay member from engaging in pursuits which lie within the field of the industry or profession regulated by the board of which they are a member, or providing representation to the industry or profession, during the term of their service or within the five-year period preceding their appointment. (BPC § 450.5)

11) States that if, as part of its functions, any board delegates any duty or responsibility to be performed by a single board member, public or lay members cannot:

    a) Prepare, administer, or grade examinations, or

    b) Inspect or investigate licensees, their manner or method of practice or business, or their place of practice or business. (BPC § 451)

12) Requires each newly appointed board member to complete a training and orientation program offered by the DCA regarding, among other things, their functions, responsibilities, and obligations as a board member, within one year of assuming office. (BPC § 453)

This bill:

1) Defines “close family member” as including, but not limited to, a parent or a child for the purposes of avoiding a potential for a conflict of interest of a public member of a board within the DCA.

2) Requires each board within DCA to adopt regulations to provide guidance on determining whether relationships with a licensee of that board other than a parent-child should prohibit an individual from serving as a public member of that board.

Background

Department of Consumer Affairs Boards. Within DCA's 38 regulatory entities, there are 27 boards, one commission, and one committee (boards) that regulate California's professions and vocations. Boards are semi-autonomous regulatory bodies vested with decision-making authority independent of the administration. Board members commonly serve four-year terms, but term lengths may vary

depending on the board and appointment date. Boards are comprised of members of the regulated profession appointed by the Governor, or "professional" members, and non-licensee members, or "public" members, who are appointed by the Governor and the Legislature.

Board members make policy decisions that impact licensees, review licensee disciplinary cases, establish minimum standards, act as stewards over program's budget, and have many other functions that require public members to have an objective viewpoint in their decision-making process. Any bias, such as a financial or personal interest, that informs a board member's judgement could lead to flawed policies, diminished consumer protection, and reduced public confidence in the board's ability to achieve its mission.

Public Member Close relationships. Existing law establishes qualifications and limitations of public board member appointments (BPC §§ 450-453), including those of a public member to a board who is a close relative of a licensee of that board. However, "close relative," is not defined. This bill would define "close relative," as a parent or child and require each DCA board to adopt regulations to expand upon that limitation to define which familial relationship(s) should be prohibited from serving as a public member to avoid potential for conflict of interest.

This bill does not provide a deadline for implementation so presumably, DCA's boards would integrate the regulation required by this bill into their rulemaking calendar as workload and time permits.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/4/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/4/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos,

Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Dixon, Flora, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. /
8/11/26 9:18:13

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1769
Author: Ramos (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Student transfer: tribal colleges

SOURCE: California Indian Nations College
Table Mountain Rancheria

DIGEST: This bill requires the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) that offer a baccalaureate degree, and requests the University of California (UC), to develop and implement transfer and articulation pathways for students attending California tribal colleges and universities (TCUs).

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 add intent language related to associate degree for transfer, replace Board of Governors references with the Community College District, replace reference to the California Articulation Number system with Course Identification Numbering System and the Common Course Numbering Project, and clarify that an articulation agreement does not require a public postsecondary educational institution to accept a student who does not meet minimum transfer requirements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Federal law defines "Indian tribal government" as the governing body of any tribe, band, community, or group of Indians, or (if applicable) Alaska Natives,

as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, to exercise governmental functions. (Title 26, United States Code § 7701 (a)(40))

Existing State law:

1) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the UC, the CSU, and the CCC; and defines "independent institutions of higher education" as nonpublic higher education institutions that grant undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, or both, and that are formed as nonprofit corporations in California and are accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. For purposes of any code or statute, a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education as of January 1, 2025, shall retain that recognition until July 1, 2029, provided that the accrediting agency continues to operate in substantially the same manner as it did on January 1, 2025. (Education Code (EC) § 66010, et seq.)

2) Includes TCUs in the definition of "public institution of higher education." (EC Section 94858.5(b))

This bill:

1) Requires the CSU Trustees and the governing boards of community college districts that offer a baccalaureate degree, and requests the UC Regents, to develop and implement transfer agreements and articulation programs that include general education and transfer curricula to support and enhance the transfer of students attending TCUs to UC, CSU, and CCCs. It also requires, that in developing a transfer agreement or articulation program, the CSU and the CCCs, and request the UC to, work collaboratively with participating TCUs to identify opportunities to align coursework with the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC), where appropriate.

2) Requires that a transfer agreement and articulation program include all of the following:

   a) Enrollment and resource planning.

   b) Intersegmental faculty curricular efforts.

   c) Coordinated counseling.

d) Financial aid and transfer services.

e) Specific efforts to improve diversity.

f) Early outreach activities.

g) Concurrent enrollment opportunities.

h) Support centers.

3) Requires the CSU Trustees, the governing boards of community college districts that offer a baccalaureate degree, and requests UC Regents to develop and implement, to the extent capacity is available, concurrent enrollment programs that allow students attending TCUs to enroll in courses offered at UC, CSU or CCC for purposes of expanding opportunities for students attending TCUs to potentially transfer to UC, CSU or CCC.

4) Requires the CSU and CCCs and requests UC in consultation with faculty and other institutional representatives, as appropriate, assess tools, systems, or curricula designed to facilitate student transfer for purposes of building upon those that are most effective in communicating articulation for students attending TCUs that must include the Course Identification Numbering System, the Common Course Numbering Project, the Intersegmental Major Preparation Articulated Curriculum, the General Education Transfer Curriculum, and the Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer.

5) Defines "TCU" to mean tribal colleges and universities geographically located in California that are operated by an Indian tribal government, as defined in Section 7701(a)(40) of Title 26 of the United States Code. "TCU" includes, but is not limited to, California Indian Nations College, California Tribal College, and Kumeyaay Community College.

6) States that this bill's provisions do not require the UC, the CSU, or the CCC to articulate coursework completed at a TCU that is not institutionally accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

7) States that this bill's provisions do not require a public postsecondary educational institution to accept a student who does not meet the minimum requirements to transfer to the institution.

8) States Legislative findings and declarations related to the benefits of articulation agreements and effective transfer pathways, as well as encourages evaluation of associate degrees for transfer for students attending TCUs to transfer to public postsecondary educational institutions.

9) States that it is the Legislature's intent to facilitate articulation and seamless transfer pathways for students attending TCUs to public postsecondary educational institutions. The goal of developing and implementing transfer agreements and articulation programs is to ensure that students attending TCUs can earn certificates and degrees that allow them greater job-earning potential in the workforce, and to ensure the effective and efficient progression of students attending TCUs when they transfer to UC, CSU, or CCCs, in order to minimize duplication of coursework.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) offer culturally relevant education and serves to bridge the gap in postsecondary education for Native American students. When students who are enrolled at a TCU decide to transfer to one of California's higher education institutions, they may be met with the challenge of ensuring courses they have taken are accepted at their new university. To ensure these students are not burdened by duplicative courses if they decide to transfer, we must work to establish transfer agreements. This would offer a helpful tool when it comes to transferring and aim to ensure effective and efficient progression for these students as they continue their pursuit in higher education."

Accreditation and transferability of coursework. This bill requires the CSU and CCCs and requests the UC to develop transfer agreements, articulation programs, and concurrent enrollment opportunities for students attending TCUs. However, this bill does not establish any minimum standards regarding the accreditation status of participating TCUs. Of the three TCUs specifically identified in this bill, California Indian Nations College is institutionally accredited, while the remaining institutions are not currently accredited or pursuing accreditation. Given that transfer credit determinations and articulation agreements are generally informed by institutional accreditation and academic review processes, the absence of an

accreditation standard may create uncertainty regarding the transferability of coursework and implementation of transfer goals. As such, this bill explicitly states that its provisions do not require articulation of unaccredited coursework.

Development of transfer pathways. According to the California Indian Nations College, students transferring from a TCU often do not know how their coursework will be applied toward degree requirements until after admission because formal articulation pathways generally do not exist. As a result, students may receive elective credit for completed coursework rather than credit that satisfies lower-division general education or major preparation requirements. This bill requires the CSU, CCCs, and requests the UC, in consultation with other involved entities as appropriate, to assess existing tools, systems, and curricula designed to facilitate student transfer. Given that articulation agreements are typically developed through faculty review and ongoing curriculum alignment between intuitions, this bill requires that consultation include faculty and other appropriate institutional representatives.

Concurrent enrollment. This bill also requires the public segments to develop concurrent enrollment opportunities for students attending TCUs to simultaneously enroll in courses offered by CSU, UC, and CCCs to the extent capacity is available. The extent to which concurrent enrollment programs are implemented would largely be left to the discretion of the participating institutions.

Existing transfer systems. Public higher education institutions currently have authority to evaluate coursework, establish articulation agreements, and develop transfer pathways with other institutions. This bill requires the CSU, CCCs, and requests the UC to assess existing transfer tools and systems, including the Cal-GETC, as part of developing transfer pathways for students attending TCUs. Ensuring eligible TCUs are able to not only participate in transfer pathways, but are integrated into the Cal-GETC (which is the singular general education pathway for CCC students to fulfill lower-division general education requirements necessary for transfer and admission to both the CSU and the UC), and Assist.org (the official course transfer and articulation system for California colleges and universities) could ease the transfer process for TCU students. This bill identifies these existing resources and requires participating institutions to identify opportunities to align coursework with Cal-GETC, where appropriate, to further the goal of creating seamless transfer pathways for students attending TCUs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- The UC estimates one-time General Fund costs of $500,000 and ongoing costs of $450,000 each year to bring in the California Indian Nations College and future tribal colleges into Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer (ASSIST) which is the official course transfer and articulation systems that the CCCs use for transfer, and staff time to develop and implement transfer agreement

- The CSU estimates additional General Fund costs possibly in the low millions of dollars for major preparation articulation, including one-time costs for campuses to evaluate and create major-course articulation for each AA degree offered by participating tribal colleges, mapping degree and course requirements to CSU major preparation and transfer admission expectations. This estimate also includes ongoing costs in the mid to high hundreds of thousands of dollars pertaining to student support services and outreach.

- The Chancellor's Office estimates Proposition 98 General Fund costs of $600,000 to $1.4 million each year for the 49 colleges that offer a baccalaureate degree program to implement and maintain transfer agreement and articulation programs including coordinated counseling, financial aid and transfer services, and concurrent enrollment. This estimate assumes a cost of $15,000 to $29,000 for each of these colleges. However, the costs could be lower to the extent that the program is integrated within existing resources. The Chancellor's Office also estimates one-time workload costs of between $13,000 and $59,000 to assess the Common Course Numbering system, the California Education General Education Transfer Curriculum, and ASSIST to facilitate student transfers from the TCUs. These costs could be higher to the extent this assessment results in updates to these systems to ensure integration.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Indian Nations College (co-source)
Table Mountain Rancheria (co-source)
California Teachers Association
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
NextGen California
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Wilton Rancheria
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
Yurok Tribe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 12:20:13

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1776
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-2, 6/30/26
AYES: Allen, Ashby, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Umberg, Caballero

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 44-17, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Cartwright Act: violations

SOURCE: American Economic Liberties Project
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Nurses Association
Consumer Federation of California
Economic Security Action
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
SEIU California
Small Business Majority
Teamsters California
TechEquity Action
UFCW Western States Council
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930
United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council
Writers Guild of American West

DIGEST: This bill adds, to the Cartwright Act, a prohibition on engaging in monopolistic or monopsonistic conduct, as specified; a violation of this measure's provisions can be enforced only through an action brought by the Attorney General or a district attorney.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 (Sherman Act). (15 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 1-7.)

2) Prohibits, under the Sherman Act:

   a) Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the states or with foreign nations. (15 U.S.C. § 1.)

   b) The monopolization, or attempt to monopolize, or combination or conspiracy with any other persons to monopolize, any part of the trade or commerce among the states, or with foreign nations. (15 U.S.C. § 2.)

3) Authorizes a state attorney general to bring a civil action in the name of the state in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction over the defendant to secure monetary relief, as provided, for violations of the Sherman Act or the Clayton Act. (15 U.S.C. § 15c.)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Cartwright Act. (Business & Professions (Bus. & Prof.) Code, div. 7, pt. 2, ch. 2, §§ 16700 et seq.)

2) Defines "person" within the Cartwright Act to include corporations, firms, partnerships, and associations. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16702.)

3) Defines a "trust" under the Cartwright Act as a combination of capital, skill, or acts by two or more persons for specified purposes, including restricting trade or commerce or preventing competition. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16720.)

4) Makes every trust unlawful, against public policy, and void, except as exempted under the Cartwright Act. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16726.)

5) Provides that any contract or agreement in violation of the Cartwright Act is absolutely void and not enforceable. (Bus & Prof. Code, § 16722.)

6) Authorizes the Attorney General, or the district attorney of any county, subject to specified notice requirements, to initiate a civil action or criminal proceeding for a violation of the Cartwright Act. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16754.)

7) Authorizes any person who is injured in their business or property by reason of anything forbidden under the Cartwright Act, regardless of whether the injured person dealt directly or indirectly with the defendant, to file a civil action to recover treble damages, interest, and injunctive relief.

   a) The state and its political subdivisions and public agencies are "persons" for the purpose of 7).

   b) The Attorney General or a district attorney may file a suit for damages on behalf of a state or county political subdivision, respectively. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16750.)

8) Authorizes the Attorney General to file a civil action in the name of the people of the State of California, as *parens patriae* on behalf of natural persons residing in the state, for a violation of the Cartwright Act, to secure monetary relief in the form of treble damages sustained by those natural persons, interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16760.)

9) Provides that, in any civil action for a violation of the Cartwright Act brought by the Attorney General or a district attorney, a civil penalty of not more than $1 million shall be assessed, as determined by a court or jury based on specified enumerated factors. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 16755.1.)

This bill:

1) Adds the provisions set forth below to the Cartwright Act.

2) Makes findings and declarations relating to the history of the Cartwright Act and the Legislature's intent for the interpretation of the Cartwright Act.

3) Provides that it is unlawful for every person to monopolize or monopsonize, attempt to monopolize or monopsonize, maintain a monopoly or monopsony, or combine or conspire with another person to monopolize or monopsonize any part of trade or commerce.

4) Provides that, for purposes of 3), procompetitive justifications of the challenged conduct shall be evaluated within the same relevant market as the conduct that is alleged to be unlawful.

5) Requires a court adjudicating a claim brought under 3) to use the analytical framework and guidance of the California Supreme Court in the manner described in *In re Cipro Cases I & II* (2015) 61 Cal.4th 116, 146-147.

6) Requires a plaintiff bringing an action pursuant to 3) to allege and, to prevail at trial, prove, substantial market power, either through direct or indirect evidence.

7) Provides that 3) does not apply to any small business, meaning an independently owned and operated business, the principal office of which is located in California, the officers of which are domiciled in California, and which, together with affiliates, has 100 or fewer employees and average annual gross receipts of $10 million or less over the three years before the filing of the complaint.

8) Provides that 3) does not prevent, limit, or prohibit either of the following:

   a) An exclusive franchise, contract, license, or permit authorized by state law that is granted and supervised by a local governmental agency, as defined, or impose any liability on any person or entity acting within the scope of authority granted by one or more such exclusive franchises, contracts, licenses, or permits.

   b) Conduct required or authorized pursuant to state or federal law that is granted and supervised by a local, state, or federal governmental agency.

9) Provides that 3) does not impose any liability on a person or entity for conduct within the scope of authority granted by one or more exclusive franchises, contracts, licenses, or permits listed in 8).

10) Requires courts to liberally interpret California's antitrust laws to best promote free and fair competition and be mindful that California favors "maximizing" effective deterrence of antitrust violations.

11) Provides that an action for a violation of this measure may be initiated only by the Attorney General or a district attorney, and that an action brought pursuant to, or under, this measure is deemed a complex case, as defined in the California Rules of Court.

Comments

California's primary antitrust law, the Cartwright Act, prohibits "trusts," or combinations of two or more persons, to restrain trade or commerce. Unlike the federal Sherman Antitrust Act, the Cartwright Act does not also prohibit conduct

by a single company in restraint of trade, which generally occurs when one corporation has monopolistic or monopolistic market power and can impose anticompetitive measures on the market and on consumers.

In response to increasing corporate concentration across a host of industries, the Legislature enacted ACR 95 (Wicks & Cunningham (Resolution Chapter 147, Statutes of 2022)), which tasked the California Law Revision Commission (CLRC) with studying potential reforms to the Cartwright Act, the state's antitrust law. This year, after three years of extensive work, the CLRC released its recommendations for amending the law to address anticompetitive behavior by a single firm.

This bill adopts the CLRC's recommendation to add a single-firm conduct prohibition to the Cartwright Act, with language that mirrors the prohibition on monopolization in the federal Sherman Act. This bill also adds statutory guidance to courts on how to interpret Cartwright Act claims, including the single-firm conduct provision, and on when and how to rely on potentially analogous Sherman Act case law. An action to enforce the bill's provisions may be brought only by the Attorney General or a district attorney; when the action is a civil action, the case must be automatically designated as a complex case under existing procedures in the California Rules of Court.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal effect is:

> Potentially significant costs to the Department of Justice if the Attorney General (AG) brings civil actions for violations of the Cartwright Act. Monopolization is only available under the federal Sherman Act. If the AG pursues monopolization under the Cartwright Act in state court, costs could be higher. (Unfair Competition Law Fund, Attorney General Antitrust Account).
>
> Cost pressures of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts. Actual costs will depend on the number of new actions created by this bill and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. Complex cases, an action is provisionally a complex case if it involves antitrust or trade regulations claims, are more time consuming. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY

2026–27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

American Economic Liberties Project (co-source)
California Federation of Labor Unions (co-source)
California Nurses Association (co-source)
Consumer Federation of California (co-source)
Economic Security Action (co-source)
Institute for Local Self-Reliance (co-source)
SEIU California (co-source)
Small Business Majority (co-source)
Teamsters California (co-source)
TechEquity Action (co-source)
UFCW Western States Council (co-source)
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930 (co-source)
United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council (co-source)
Writers Guild of American West (co-source)
AAPIs for Civic Empowerment
AFCSME
AFM Local 7
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Action
Amalgamated Transit Union
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California District Attorneys Association
California Food and Farming Network
California Low-Income Consumer Coalition
California Professional Firefighters
California Public Banking Alliance
California School Employees Association AFL-CIO
California Work & Family Coalition
CAMEO Network
Communication Workers of America District 9
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
Courage California
Electronic Frontier Foundation
End Poverty in California
Engineers & Scientists of California, IFPTE Local 20
Equal Rights Advocates

Fan Alliance
Future of Music Coalition
Health Access CA
Hmong Innovating Politics
Indivisible CA: StateStrong
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 80
International Association of Mechanists and Aerospace Workers
Kapor Center Advocacy
Latino Prosperity
OC Action
Office of Kat Taylor
Omidyar Network
Open Markets Institute
Privacy Defense Alliance
Propel San Francisco
Protect Borrowers
Proton
Responsible Online Commerce Coalition
Rise Economy
Small Business Forward
SMART – Transit Division
The Greenlining Institute
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
Union of Concerned Scientists
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Wellbeing Economy Alliance California
Western Center on Law & Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

ACT/Association for Competitive Technology
Advance SF
Advanced Medical Technologies Association
African American Farmers of California
Airlines for America
American Investment Council
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Animal Health Institute
Associated General Contractors – California
Associated General Contractors – San Diego

Association for Competitive Technology
Association of Western Employees
Athens Services
Axis Advocacy
Bay Area Council
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce
Biocom
Biomarker Collaborative
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Bleeding Disorders Council of California
Brea Chamber of Commerce
Building Owners and Managers Association of California
BuildIT
CA Rare Disease Access Coalition
CalAsian Pacific Chamber of Commerce
California Apartment Association
California Assisted Living Association
California Association of Realtors
California Attractions and Parks Association
California Bankers Association
California Beer and Beverage Distributors
California Broadband & Video Association
California Broadcasters Association
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Clinical Laboratory Association
California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
California Farm Bureau
California Food Producers
California Forestry Association
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
California Grocers Association
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
California Hospital Association
California Hotel + Lodging Association
California Kidney Care Alliance
California Land and Title Association

California Life Sciences
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
California Restaurant Association
California Retailers Association
California Strawberry Commission
California Taxpayers Association
California Trucking Association
California Walnut Commission
California's Credit Union
CALinnovates
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Central Valley Business Federation
Chamber San Mateo County
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chronic Disease Coalition
Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce
Civil Justice Association of California
Colusa County Chamber of Commerce
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Connected Commerce Council
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Corona Chamber of Commerce
CTIA
Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute
Dairy Institute Council
DaVita
Developers Alliance
Distilled Media
Elevate California
Exon 20 Group
Family Business Association
Fontana Chamber of Commerce
Fremont Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ontario Business Council
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Hispanic Chambers of Commerce San Francisco
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Housing Contractors of California
ICAN
International Franchise Association
La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
Lodi Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Altos Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
MET Crusaders
Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce
Motion Picture Association
Mountain View Chamber of Commerce
MRG1 Energizers
Murrieta Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Neuropathy Action Foundation
Nisei Farmers League
North San Diego Business Chamber
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
PDL1 Amplifieds
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce
Recording Industry Association of America
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
San José Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Mateo County Economic Development Association
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
Self Storage Association

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Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Software & Information Industry Association
Southwest California Legislative Council
Storybooth
StreamStakes
Technology Industry Association of California
TechNet
Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce
Torrance Chamber of Commerce
Tri County Chamber Alliance
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
Upland Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
West Ventura County Business Alliance
Western Growers Association
Western Plant Health Association
Western Wood Preservers Institute
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce
Two individuals

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to a coalition of labor organizations, consumer protection groups, and small business advocates:

> Without a state law against illegal monopolization, Californians may only use antitrust law to challenge illegal monopolies in federal court pursuant to weakened federal antitrust law. The erosion of federal antitrust laws was not accidental. Beginning in the late 1960s, an intellectual movement known as the "Chicago School" de-emphasized market competition in favor of short-sighted economic gains. Over the next several decades, big business co-opted and promoted Chicago School thinking as a tool to advance its interests. Big businesses triumphed, and antitrust enforcement plummeted.
>
> By every measure, the COMPETE Act reflects a consensus-based, nonpartisan approach to reinvigorating competition. The CLRC's study was initiated in 2022 by bipartisan resolution ACR 95 (Wicks, Cunningham). The CLRC's Single Firm Conduct Working Group Report, upon which the COMPETE Act is based, was written by legal experts and economics professors, government officials, and attorneys who have defended Fortune 500 companies in antitrust litigation.6 The study, which included 17 public hearings, elicited over 110 letters from trade groups, businesses, advocacy organizations, and members of

the public.7 When presented with an option to codify an "abuse of dominance" standard, the CLRC instead proposed codifying California jurisprudence that is well understood by businesses and antitrust experts.8 What emerges is a modest, pro-business proposal to promote competition, affordability, and fair labor standards.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to a coalition of this bill's opponents, including the California Chamber of Commerce:

AB 1776 prohibits monopolization, attempts to monopolize and conspiracies to monopolize, just like Section 2 of the federal Sherman Act. Not surprisingly, under federal law, these kinds of monopolization claims require the possession of "monopoly power" or at least a dangerous probability of obtaining such monopoly power. AB 1776, however, creates a new standard that merely requires that a single-firm possess "substantial market power." Not only is this a standard that federal and California courts have not applied to single-firm conduct, it is a standard that does not fit with the type of monopolization offenses created by this bill and one that presumably creates a threshold lower than that under federal law.

While this may seem like a small tweak to a term of art, it is a massive departure from existing law that will result in two serious problems. First, it will expose businesses that would be entirely beyond the reach of Section 2 of the Sherman Act to monopolization claims even though they do not possess the type of monopoly power that allow monopolists to dominate markets. Second, it will generate satellite litigation over the meaning of "substantial," as courts, juries, and competing experts spend years in expensive litigation arguing about where "market power" ends and "substantial market power" begins—a line that does not exist in federal law because federal law never adopted this standard.

Uncertainty like this chills competition and innovation, it discourages investment and it leads to increased litigation and increased costs for California businesses and consumers. If AB 1776 is intended to outlaw monopolization, it should do just that, not some ill-defined category of conduct that falls short of monopolization.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 44-17, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Ávila Farías, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Castillo, Chen, Gallagher, Gipson, Irwin, Nguyen, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Soria, Valencia, Wilson

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/17/26 10:54:41

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1795
Author: Gipson (D)
Amended: 7/2/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Padilla, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NOES: Niello
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Gonzalez, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Hurtado

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-7, 6/8/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Smoke Damage Recovery Act

SOURCE: Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance

DIGEST: This bill requires that the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) develop, by June 30, 2027, health-based standards and requirements for minimum sampling, testing, and chemical screening levels for residential properties that have sustained smoke damage from a wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire or urban conflagration. Establishes a framework for the application and implementation of these standards, including the development of training and certification requirements for insurance adjusters and those who sample, test, or restore residential properties. Further sets down affiliated requirements for insurers, and responsibilities for the California Department of Insurance (CDI).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that a fire perimeter is determined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). Subsequently, CAL FIRE must provide the Insurance Commissioner (Commissioner) with data describing the fire perimeter so that the Commissioner may determine which ZIP Codes are within or adjacent to the fire perimeter. The Commissioner must then issue a bulletin to inform insurers which ZIP Codes are subject to a one-year moratorium.

2) Defines a "state of emergency" as the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state, caused by conditions such as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, electromagnetic pulse attack, plant or animal infestation or disease, among other conditions.

3) Regulates the licensing including exam, education, and background check requirements for insurance adjusters, who engage in investigation for the purpose of obtaining information while adjusting or participating in the disposal of any claim in connection with a policy of insurance.

4) Regulates the licensing including exam, education, and background check requirements of public insurance adjusters who act on behalf of an insured in negotiating for or effecting the settlement of a claim or claims for loss or damage under a policy of insurance.

5) Establishes the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) to authorize the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to regulate the management of hazardous wastes in California.

6) Defines "hazardous waste" as waste, that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics:

    a) Causes, or significantly contributes to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness.

    b) Poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, due to factors including, but not limited to, carcinogenicity, acute toxicity, chronic toxicity, bio accumulative properties, or persistence

in the environment, when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

7) Requires DTSC, under the HWCL, to adopt, and revise when appropriate, standards and regulations for the management of hazardous waste to protect against hazards to public health, domestic livestock, wildlife, or the environment.

This bill:

1) Requires CalEPA, on or before June 30, 2027, to develop health-based standards and requirements for minimum sampling, testing, and chemical screening levels for residential properties that have sustained smoke damage as a result of a WUI fire or urban conflagration.

2) Stipulates that the standards and requirements mentioned above must include protocols, parameters, and thresholds for pre-remediation testing, post-remediation testing, and clearance of a residential property for habitation after remediation is completed.

3) Requires, in creating these standards, CalEPA to consult with agencies including DTSC, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), air pollution control districts, and local public health departments, as necessary. Requires CalEPA to adopt regulations to implement or make the above provisions more specific.

4) States that CalEPA may create additional standards and requirements pertaining to a particular wildfire, including requirements for the identification of contaminants, supplementary minimum sampling and testing recommendations or requirements, or chemical screening levels for residential properties that have sustained smoke damage. Further states that these requirements, relating to a particular wildfire, shall be exempt from specified state laws that govern rulemaking.

5) Creates related definitions, including that "impact zone" means a ZIP Code that is either within the fire perimeter or adjacent to the fire perimeter, as specified, and downwind of the fire perimeter based on maps generated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

6) Requires CalEPA, by January 1, 2028, to consult with CDI, CDPH, the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), Contractors State License Board (CSLB), State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), and any

other state or local government agency, as may be necessary, to establish training and certification requirements for a person who inspects, evaluates, samples, tests, analyzes, remediates, or restores residential properties that have sustained smoke damage as a result of a WUI fire or urban conflagration, including industrial hygienists, restoration professionals, and laboratories.

7) Prohibits an insurer from terminating coverage for additional living expenses for a covered smoke damage claim submitted under a policy of residential property insurance, as a result of a WUI fire or urban conflagration until the property has been cleared for habitation pursuant to CalEPA's standards and requirements, subject to the applicable policy limit.

8) States that CalEPA's standards and requirements apply to all covered smoke damage claims within the impact zone submitted under policies of residential property insurance due to a WUI fire or urban conflagration.

9) Requires that, if a smoke damage insurance claim is settled on the basis of a written scope or estimate prepared by or for the insurer, the insurer must supply the claimant with a copy of each document upon which the settlement is based.

10) Stipulates that the estimate be for an amount that will restore the damaged property to at least its pre-loss condition and allow for restoration to meet or exceed CalEPA's standards and requirements, other relevant laws and regulations, and accepted trade and industry standards that do not conflict with CalEPA's standards and requirements.

11) Requires CDI, by January 1, 2028, to develop, implement, and enforce training and certification programs, as specified, for insurance adjusters and public insurance adjusters in inspecting, evaluating, sampling, or testing smoke damage caused by a WUI fire or urban conflagration involving residential properties.

12) Makes related findings and declarations.

13) Contains an urgency clause.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

CDI estimates a one-time cost of $91,000 (Insurance Fund) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 to develop the training and certification program for adjusters and to address the expected increase in rate filing.

CalEPA estimates ongoing annual costs of $6 million (General Fund) to promulgate regulations and to implement, administer, and enforce the requirements of this bill. CalEPA also anticipates substantial, yet undetermined, annual contracting costs.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) estimates total ongoing annual costs of $1.024 million (Wildfire Remediation Certification and Training Fund and General Fund). This estimate includes $624,000 to support 1.0 personnel year (PY) and $400,000 in contract funding to maintain and update standards, as well as to identify and develop additional standards as new wildland-urban interface related fire hazards are identified.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) estimates ongoing annual costs of $545,000 (General Fund) beginning in FY 2026-27 to consult with CalEPA and to resolve current laboratory and measurement issues, including the specific chemicals to be tested, regarding residential property wildfire remediation and restoration.

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) anticipates any costs associated with its required consultation activities will be minor and absorbable.

Unknown costs to other state agencies required to consult with CalEPA during the development of the testing standards. Based on feedback from OEHHA, CDPH, and DIR, these costs may range from absorbable to the high hundreds of thousands of dollars (General Fund and special fund).

Staff notes that actual ongoing costs to each affected state agency are unknown because the bill does not specify a timeline or requirements for updating the standards. While the upfront workload to evaluate WUI-related fire hazards may be significant, ongoing costs could decrease in subsequent years. This reduction would occur if agencies review and update standards on an as-needed basis, rather than conducting a full annual review.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance (source)

City of Los Alamitos

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

301 Organics
350 Conejo
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 South Bay LA
350 South Bay Los Angeles
350 Southland Legislative Alliance
After the Fire
Altadena Arts
Altadena Colab
Altagether
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Ban Sup
Biomax Environmental
California Community Foundation
Civic Sundays
Clergy Community Coalition
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumer Watchdog
Dena Rise Up
Eaton Fire Collaborative
Eaton Fire Renters Coalition
Eaton Fire Residents United
End Child Poverty CA
Glendale Environmental Coalition
Greenfaith
Hello Claire
Hollly Wyman Design
Indivisible Alta Pasadena
Joan Collaborative
LA Voice
LA Standing Homes
Leap of Faith Family to Family Support
Little Tokyo Service Center
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Maeve Mt. Washington Glassell Park
McClain Consulting Services
My Tribe Rise

National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies
Pacific Film Foundation
Pasadenans Organizing for Progress
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Resilient Palisades
San Diego 350
San Diego350
Sonoma County Climate Activist Network

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, sponsor of the bill:

"California has experienced record-breaking wildfires, including the January 2025 Eaton and Palisades Fires, which destroyed thousands of homes and left many more contaminated by smoke, soot, ash, char, and other hazardous substances. Thousands of smoke-damage insurance claims have since been filed. Because no authoritative, enforceable standards exist for testing or remediating smoke damage, survivors report inconsistent claims handling, partial or total denials, and refusals by insurers to pay for pre- or post-remediation testing. CDI has taken executive actions—including consumer bulletins, enforcement actions, and investigations—but the absence of standards has resulted in a patchwork of insurer practices. In response to the January 2025 fires, I convened a Smoke Claims and Remediation Task Force to develop recommendations for statewide standards and insurance coverage expectations.

Residential property insurance policies that cover the peril of fire also cover smoke damage caused by fire, and insurers are required to cover restoration of properties to pre-loss condition. However, California has no statewide standards governing the inspection or testing of smoke-damaged homes, no minimum sampling or clearance protocols, no mandated remediation methods, and no training or certification requirements for professionals who assess or remediate smoke damage. No state agency is currently designated to enforce uniform smoke-damage remediation standards, and existing claims-handling requirements lack the specificity needed for consistent enforcement.

The absence of enforceable standards has resulted in inconsistent insurer practices, including denials of testing, partial claim denials, and refusals to reimburse for pre- or post-remediation testing. Homeowners and tenants face uncertainty about whether their homes are safe to reenter, and many have been forced to pay for testing or remediation out of pocket. Without statewide standards, neither insurers

nor regulators have a clear framework to ensure that smoke-damaged homes are restored to safe, habitable, pre-loss condition, and the resulting instability contributes to rising costs in the residential property insurance market

AB 1795 would create a comprehensive statewide framework for residential property insurance policies to ensure consistent, science-based handling of smoke-damage claims. This bill will mandate insurer compliance with remediation protocols and clarify their obligation to cover the cost of restoring properties to a pre-loss condition. Finally, AB 1795 also identifies the appropriate state agencies responsible for implementing and enforcing the standards and creates penalties for noncompliance."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to the insurance associations known as the "Trades":

"The insurance industry supports standards on the testing and remediation of smoke claims and actively participated in the Smoke Claims and Remediation Task Force established by the California Department of Insurance (CDI). Clear and credible standards benefit homeowners, regulators, and insurers. However, standards must be grounded in defensible science and structured in a way that is operationally feasible and legally durable.

AB 1795 introduces a comprehensive new framework governing wildfire smoke testing, remediation, and insurance claims handling. While intended to improve consistency and consumer outcomes, several provisions raise significant concerns for insurers related to contract certainty, retroactive application, operational feasibility, and cost escalation.

The bill was improved in Assembly Insurance Committee; however we do remain concerned with certain provisions of the bill. Most importantly the cost. In recent years we have seen the costs for smoke claims grow exponentially. These are claims where a home does not have a single ember touch the home, and in some cases are exhausting million-dollar policies. These are unpredictable costs that fall well outside underwriting expectations and the pricing of smoke coverage. If AB 1795 moves forward as drafted companies will have to anticipate that the entirety of a homeowner's policy could be exhausted through smoke claims, thus undermining the affordability and availability benefits of mitigation.

To address this concern and continue towards greater market availability and affordability we have suggested to the author and sponsor that a sublimit on smoke should be included. This would cap smoke coverage at a percentage of the total

policy coverage, such that cleaning, remediation, and testing are available without increasing the amount needed in claims paying capacity. This sublimit would be available with optional higher limits for those desiring higher coverage protection for smoke. This will contain the costs for those not in WUI or high smoke risk areas, while providing sufficient protection for homeowners and predictability to insurers. We appreciate the commitments made by the author to address this concern and are in active discussion with his office and the CDI to determine the best way to proceed."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-7, 6/8/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, DeMaio, Hadwick, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Bains, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Haney, Kalra, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz, Ta, Wallis

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
8/15/26 12:18:10

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1798
Author: Wilson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Padilla, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Jones

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 8-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 57-18, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Genetic testing for life and disability insurance

SOURCE: Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance

DIGEST: This bill (1) prohibits a life or disability insurer from canceling, limiting, or denying coverage based on a test for a genetic characteristic, except as specified; (2) prohibits a life or disability insurance institution, agent, or insurance-support organization from requiring, requesting, or soliciting genetic information; using genetic test results; or considering a person's decisions or actions relating to genetic testing in any manner for an insurance purpose, with certain exemptions; (3) bans the use or disclosure of an individual's full genome.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address chaptering issues with SB 354 (Limón).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information under the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

2) Prohibits, pursuant to federal law under the Genetic Information and Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), discrimination based on genetic information in group health plan coverage and employment.

3) Subjects any person who improperly discloses genetic test results contained in a health care service plan applicant or enrollee's medical records, or pursuant to a genetic test requested by an insurer, to civil and criminal penalties.

4) Prohibits a Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) genetic testing company from disclosing a consumer's genetic data to any entity that is responsible for administering or making decisions regarding health insurance, life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, or employment, or to any entity that provides advice to an entity that is responsible for performing those functions, except as specified.

5) Prohibits a life or disability insurer from requiring a test for the presence of a genetic characteristic for the purpose of determining insurability other than for those policies that are contingent on review or testing for other diseases or medical conditions.

6) Prohibits discrimination made in the fees or commissions of agents or brokers writing or renewing a life or disability income policy on the basis of a test of that person's genetic characteristics.

7) Prohibits life and disability insurers from failing or refusing to accept an application for insurance, from failing to issue insurance to an applicant, and from issuing insurance under conditions less favorable to the insured than in other comparable cases, except for reasons applicable alike to persons of every race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation; and prohibits considering race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, and sexual orientation from, of itself, constituting a condition or risk for which a higher rate, premium, or charge may be required of the insured for that insurance, except as specified.

8) Prohibits life and disability insurers from refusing to issue/sell or renew a policy, or from requiring beneficiaries to accept less than the full sum of the

policy, solely because the person to be insured carries a gene which may, under some circumstances, be associated with disability in that person's offspring, but which causes no adverse effects to the carrier.

9) Defines "genetic characteristics" to mean any scientifically or medically identifiable gene or chromosome, or alteration thereof, that is known to be a cause of a disease or disorder, or that is determined to be associated with a statistically increased risk of development of a disease or disorder, and that is presently not associated with any symptoms of any disease or disorder.

This bill:

1) States the intent of the Legislature that the changes made by this bill should not be interpreted to authorize the use or disclosure of an individual's full genome.

2) Prohibits, as specified, an insurance institution, agent, or insurance-support organization from seeking information in connection with an insurance transaction concerning an individual's full genome or genetic information. including if the genetic information is for the purpose of ruling out an adverse finding based on the individual's medical record and the individual has provided informed, written consent for the release, disclosure, and use of the genetic test results or has provided the genetic test results to the insurer.

3) Prohibits, as specified, a life or disability insurer from cancelling, limiting, or denying coverage, establishing differentials in premium rates, conditions, or terms, or making an adverse underwriting decision based on a test for a genetic characteristic.

4) Prohibits, as specified, a life or disability insurer from requiring, requesting, or soliciting genetic information, using genetic test results, or considering a person's decisions or actions relating to genetic testing in any manner for an insurance purpose, except as necessary for the payment of benefits or for a therapeutic purpose.

5) Prohibits a life or disability insurer from requiring a person to undergo a test of the person's genetic characteristics to determine eligibility or insurability or for other insurance purposes.

6) Prohibits a life or disability insurer from asking a person if they or any member of their family have taken a genetic test, or asking about the result of a genetic test.

7) Specifies that, unless prohibited by law, the above provisions do not apply if the genetic information or test results are in the individual's medical record, are not derived from a DTC genetic test, and if the genetic information is for the purpose of ruling out an adverse finding based on the individual's medical record and the individual has provided informed, written consent for the release, disclosure, and use of the genetic test results or has provided the genetic test results to the insurer.

8) States that this bill does not limit an insurer's right to decline an application or enrollment request for a life or disability insurance policy, charge a higher rate or premium for such a policy, or place a limitation on coverage under such a policy, based on the manifestation, diagnosis, or treatment of any present disease or disorder. Furthermore, this bill does not prohibit a life insurer or disability insurer from considering a medical diagnosis included in an individual's medical record, even if the diagnosis was made based on the results of a genetic test.

9) Creates affiliated penalties for violations of this bill's provisions.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 41 (Umberg, Chapter 596, Statutes of 2021). Provided several privacy and consumer protections for genetic information collected through DTC testing.

SB 559 (Padilla, Chapter 261, Statutes of 2011). Expanded the prohibited bases of discrimination under the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to include genetic information.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Unknown, potentially significant workload cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate any violations resulting from this bill (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $8,000 in staff in workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the

General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

Unknown local county costs to the extent that a one-year misdemeanor jail sentence is imposed, though incarceration for this offense appears unlikely. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $80,000. For historical context, Los Angeles County budgeted $1.3 billion for jail costs in 2021, averaging roughly $90,000 per incarcerated person. Actual county incarceration costs will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

The California Department of Insurance does not anticipate a fiscal impact from the bill (Insurance Fund).

Staff notes there may be an unknown potential increase in enforcement workload for CDI to address violations of this bill, which may be offset to some extent by penalty revenue (Insurance Fund). It is possible that higher aggregate penalties may incentivize insurers to contest enforcement actions through the administrative hearing process rather than opting for immediate compliance, which may increase administrative and adjudicatory workload. The magnitude of this workload would depend on the number and scope of violations, as well as any attached penalties.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance (source)
ALS Association
ALS Network
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network INC.
American Kidney Fund
Ancestry
Angioma Alliance D/B/A Alliance to Cure Cavernous Malformation
Association of Northern California Oncologists
Biocom
Bleeding Disorders Council of California
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Life Sciences Association
California Medical Association
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Chronic Disease Coalition

Csnk2a1 Foundation
Cure Mapt Ftd
Curegrn
Dialysis Patient Citizens
Dysautonomia International
Eb Research Partnership
Equality California
Force: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Gene Dx, LLC
Genedx
Genetic ALS & FTD: End the Legacy
Global Colon Cancer Association
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Natera, INC.
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California
National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation
Oakland Privacy
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Rare & Ready Coalition
RareRising
Rasopathies Network
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases
The International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
Triage Cancer
U.S. Renal Care
Wilson Disease Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

American Council of Life Insurers
Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors - California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, sponsor of the bill states:

"AB 1798 ensures that proactive, at-risk individuals are not discouraged from or punished for obtaining this important information. When consumers fear adverse insurance consequences, they may avoid valuable genetic tests. A 2023 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey indicated that 60% of respondents were

concerned that the results of genetic testing for a higher risk of cancer would impact their life insurance. AB 1798 removes this barrier, promoting early detection, prevention, and better health outcomes.

Genetic information differs from traditional underwriting factors because it most often suggests a remote chance of future diseases rather than a reasonably anticipated risk. Medical experts emphasize that genetic tests cannot reliably predict if or when a disease will occur and should not be used to penalize healthy individuals. Sound underwriting does not require genetic testing of asymptomatic individuals. Insurers will continue to retain access to the full range of established underwriting tools that they use and have used effectively for decades prior to the advent of genetic testing.

A 2016 study reported that 28% of individuals who declined whole genome sequencing cited insurance discrimination as their primary reason. Participants expressed that including the genetic information in a medical record was like a "ticking time bomb." AB 1798 would address these concerns by prohibiting insurance companies from using this information when it appears in the medical files of individuals without symptoms. This protection is expected to increase participation in whole genome sequencing, which supports efforts to find cures and therapies for rare diseases.

As more Californians use early genetic testing screenings to better understand their health, they should never have to worry that this deeply personal information will be turned against them. AB 1798 closes a dangerous gap in our laws by banning insurers from using genetic tests performed in the absence of symptoms or disease to deny coverage or raise premiums for most California consumers. Your DNA and your medical markers belong to you, not to an insurance company. Protecting consumer privacy and preventing discrimination ensures people can use the latest medical technology without putting their health, their coverage, or their most sensitive data at risk."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition representing the life insurance industry states:

"At a fundamental level, life insurance is about pricing risk, and medical testing that can inform a patient, doctor, or insurer about an individual's risk needs to be accessible in underwriting. It should not matter whether that test is a CT scan, EKG, blood test, or doctor-ordered genetic test. The results are telling the insurer something material about the risk of insuring that individual.

We have heard often that most genetic markers do not guarantee an outcome, and therefore using the test is unfair. We agree that outcomes are rarely entirely determined by an individual's genes. But calling the use of genetic information unfair fundamentally misunderstands what we are insuring. We are insuring against the risk of the outcome, not the outcome itself. Genetic testing can provide meaningful information about the risk of developing a disease, and insurers should be able to consider that information.

That said, we have heard your concerns about direct-to-consumer genetic tests and tests an individual may take to participate in genetic research. We have offered amendments to your office and the sponsor that would take those tests off the table for underwriting consideration, even if they are in an applicant's medical file. In exchange, we simply ask that you accept our amendment to allow access to doctor-ordered, medical-grade genetic tests which reflects the statements made, and understandings developed in the Assembly Insurance Committee.

We believe the responsible path forward is to maintain balanced guardrails that preserve information symmetry, protect confidentiality, and maintain long-term affordability. Despite our strong opposition, we remain committed to working with you on this proposal. At this time, however, we respectfully continue to oppose AB 1798 in its current form."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 57-18, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dixon, Lackey, Nguyen, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
8/24/26 13:51:28

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1808
Author: Carrillo (D)
Amended: 8/19/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act: industrial projects and commercial projects: single-family residences: public works projects

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to delegate to a city permitting authority under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (WJTCA) for commercial and industrial projects to take up to 40 western Joshua trees; 2)further authorizes CDFW to authorize, without fees or other mitigation the removal or trimming of up to 10 western Joshua trees by the owner of a single family residence or up to 40 western Joshua trees for a public works project where certain criteria are met; and 3) waives the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for these single-family home projects until CDFW certifies a programmatic environmental impact report; among other provisions, as provided.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/19/26 add chaptering out amendments with SB 1062 (Ochoa Bogh, 2026).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes CDFW and the California Fish and Game Commission (commission) in the California Natural Resources Agency. In general, CDFW implements and enforces the regulations set by the commission and provides data and expertise to inform the commission's decision making.

2) Specifies that CDFW has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (Fish & Game Code (FGC) §1802).

3) Defines "take" as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. (FGC §86).

4) Prohibits the taking of an endangered or threatened species, except in certain situations. Provides that a candidate species receives protections under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) while its status is pending. (FGC §§2070 *et seq.*).

5) Allows CDFW to authorize the taking of listed species pursuant to an incidental take permit (ITP) if the taking is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity, the impacts are minimized and fully mitigated, and the issuance of the permit would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. (FGC §§2081; 2084).

6) Establishes the WJTCA that enacts the following (FGC §§1927 *et seq.*):

   a) Prohibits any person or public agency from importing into the state, exporting out of the state, or taking, possessing, purchasing, or selling within the state, a WJT or any part or product of the WJT, except pursuant to the WJTCA, CESA, or the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP Act).

   b) Authorizes WJT take under CESA or by paying certain in-lieu fees specified by the WJTCA when the WJT is a candidate species under CESA.

c) Requires the WJTCA to remain operative if the commission determines that listing the WJT under CESA is not warranted. Requires WJT take permitting under CESA or pursuant to the NCCP Act if the commission determines that listing the WJT under CESA is warranted, which would render the WJTCA inoperative.

d) Authorizes CDFW to issue a permit for the taking of a WJT if specified conditions are met, including, that the permittee mitigates all impacts to, and taking of, the WJT.

e) Authorizes a permittee, in lieu of completing the mitigation measures on its own, to elect to satisfy the mitigation obligation by paying a fee pursuant to a specified fee schedule.

f) Requires CDFW to annually adjust the fees for inflation, and to review the fees by December 31, 2026, and every three years thereafter, to ensure the conservation of WJT.

g) Requires all fees remitted to CDFW to be deposited into the Conservation Fund, as provided, and requires the moneys in the Conservation Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be used solely for the purposes of acquiring, conserving, and managing WJT conservation lands and completing other activities to conserve the WJT.

h) Authorizes CDFW to enter into an agreement with any county or city to delegate to the county or city the ability to authorize the taking of a WJT associated with developing single-family residences, accessory structures, and public works projects, as defined, concurrent with the city's or county's approval of the project. Limits the number of WJTs taken associated with single-family residences, multifamily residences, or accessory structures projects to 10 under this delegation.

i) Authorizes CDFW or its designee to issue a permit to authorize the removal or trimming of a dead WJT or the trimming of a live WJT, as provided.

j) Requires CDFW to develop and implement a WJT conservation plan, as provided. Specifies that CDFW shall present the final conservation plan at a public meeting of the commission, for its review and approval, by December 31, 2024, and requires the commission to take final action on the plan by June 30, 2025.

k) Requires CDFW to submit an annual report to the commission and the Legislature addressing the conservation status of the WJT, as provided.

l) Requires the commission, beginning in 2026, and at least every two years thereafter, to, at a public meeting, review the status of the WJT and the effectiveness of the conservation plan, as specified.

m) Requires CDFW to submit to the commission an update of the status review required under CESA that incorporates any new scientific information and includes an evaluation of conservation efforts under the WJTCA by January 1, 2033.

This bill:

1) Authorizes CDFW to enter into an agreement with a city to delegate to the city the ability to authorize the take of a WJT associated with developing commercial and industrial projects concurrent with the city's approval of a project, as provided.
   a) Limits the city's delegated take authorization to no more than 40 individual WJT.
   b) Requires the city to obtain CDFW's written concurrence that a commercial or industrial project has avoided and minimized the take of WJT for projects that take more than 20 individual WJT.
   c) Authorizes only commercial and industrial projects in certain locations to pay in-lieu fees to satisfy the project's mitigation requirements.

2) Authorizes CDFW to authorize by permit both a) and b) below with reduced mitigation fees of $250 for each WJT equal to or greater than 5 meters in height, $50 for each WJT between 1 and up to 5 meters in height, and $37.50 for each WJT less than 1 meter in height:
   a) The removal of no more than 10 WJTs or trimming of WJTs by an owner-occupant of an existing single-family residence (SFR) if the WJTs are:
      i) Within 30 feet of an existing SFR or within 15 feet of an existing accessory structure, or
      ii) Within the construction footprint or within 15 feet of the construction footprint of a new accessory structure proposed for an existing SFR.
   b) The removal of no more than 40 WJTs or trimming of WJTs by the proponent of a public works project if the WJTs are within the construction footprint, or within 15 feet of the construction footprint, of a public works project to repair, rehabilitate, replace, or maintain an existing structure.

3) Authorizes a county or city operating under an approved delegation agreement to authorize by permit without mitigation both a) and b) below:
   a) The removal of no more than 10 WJTs or trimming of WJTs by an owner-occupant of an existing SFR if the WJTS are:

   i) Within 30 feet of an existing SFR or within 15 feet of an existing accessory structure, or
   ii) Within the construction footprint or within 15 feet of the construction footprint of a new accessory structure proposed for an existing SFR.
b) The removal of no more than 40 WJTs or trimming of WJTs by the proponent of a public works project if the WJTs are within the construction footprint, or within 15 feet of the construction footprint, of a public works project to repair, rehabilitate, replace, or maintain an existing structure.
c) Authorizes a county or city issuing a permit under a) or b) above to impose a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs of issuing the permit.
d) Requires a property owner or proponent of a public works project seeking a permit under a) or b) above to submit a request to the county or city on a form provided by the county or city that requires the following information:
   i) Name, telephone number, mailing and email address of the property owner or public works project proponent.
   ii) The street address of the SFR or public works project on which each WJT requested to be removed or trimmed is located, or alternative location information, as provided.
   iii) A statement on how each WJT requested to be trimmed or removed meets the conditions of (a) or (b) above.
   iv) The size class of each WJT requested to be trimmed or removed.
   v) The distance of each WJT requested to be trimmed or removed from the SFR, existing accessory structure or construction footprint of a new accessory structure that is proposed or of the public works project.
   vi) Photographs of each WJT requested to be removed or trimmed that depict its location relative to the SFR, existing accessory structure, or construction footprint of a new accessory structure that is proposed to be constructed or of the public works project.
e) Requires the county or city, within 60 days of receipt of a request for a permit, to either notify the property owner or public works project proponent that the county or city will issue the permit or deny the request, as provided.

4) Provides that CEQA does not apply to issuing a permit pursuant to 2) until CDFW certifies a PEIR that addresses actions with the potential to result in limited take of WJTs for SFRs and accessory structures and there is a final unappealable judgment in litigation, if any, challenging the PEIR, or until January 1, 2032, whichever occurs first.

5) Postpones by six months to June 30, 2027 when the first revision of the fees by CDFW is due.

6) Adds an urgency provision for specified reasons, adds chaptering out amendments with SB 1062 (Ochoa Bogh, 2026), and makes various conforming changes to statute.

Background

The WJT is a candidate species for listing under CESA.

[NOTE: For additional information about this bill, see the Senate Natural Resources and Water, and Environmental Quality Committees' analyses.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing costs of an unknown amount, likely around or less than $1 million annually (General Fund), for CDFW to support the new permitting pathway that would be created by this bill, including development of new application materials and forms, instructions and guidance materials, website updates, permit templates, education and outreach materials, and updated tracking metrics.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

Associated General Contractors of California
Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency
California Association of Realtors
California Building Industry Association
California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
California Farm Bureau
Community Water Systems Alliance
County of San Bernardino
Hi-Desert Water District
Inland Action
Morongo Basin Residents for Reasonably Joshua Tree Regulation
Palmdale Water District

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "The Western Joshua Tree is an iconic symbol of the High Desert region, and I support the preservation

of this species. Although the state has been moving in the right direction to protect this iconic species while meeting our state's goals, we need to address the burden on single family homeowners and public works, as well as the need to streamline permitting for projects vital to economic development. Single family homeowners who love the Western Joshua Tree struggle as they are expected to spend tens of thousands of dollars on fees to upgrade from a septic tank or build a shed. Local governments that represent historically disenfranchised areas are expected to spend millions of additional dollars on upgrading infrastructure, some of which haven't been upgraded since the 19th century. All the while these same governments are unable to permit vital economic development projects, as their constituency grows rapidly due to lack of space and affordability in the LA Metropolitan area. We must strike a balance between conservation and the needs of an increase in population."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Arambula, Boerner, Chen, Elhawary, Gabriel, Hart, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wicks, Zbur

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/20/26 10:35:58

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1813
Author: Ward (D), et al.
Amended: 6/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 11-2, 6/16/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Stern, Wahab
NOES: Niello, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Grove, Richardson, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-8, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Electricity: customer renewable energy subscription program

SOURCE: Californians for Local Affordable Solar and Storage

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to adopt or modify a customer renewable energy subscription program with specified requirements by which a program participant is credited for electricity generated from a renewable generation facility.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes and vests the CPUC with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)

2) Requires the CPUC, on or before March 31, 2024, to evaluate each customer renewable energy subscription program to determine if the program meets

specified goals and to determine whether it would be beneficial to ratepayers to establish a new tariff or program for an electrical corporation, or modify an existing tariff or program administered by an electrical corporation, to establish a community renewable energy program, as provided. If the CPUC determines it would be beneficial to ratepayers to establish the community renewable energy program, existing law requires the CPUC, on or before July 1, 2024, to establish the program and require each electrical corporation to participate in the program. (Public Utilities Code §769.3)

3) Requires the CPUC, within 24 months of establishing a community renewable energy program and annually thereafter for the duration of the program, to submit to the Legislature a report on the facilities deployed and customers subscribed, as provided. (Public Utilities Code §913.15)

4) Requires every electric utility, defined to include electrical corporations (IOUs), local publicly owned electric utilities (POUs), and electrical cooperatives, to develop a standard contract or tariff for net energy metering (NEM), for generation by a renewable electrical generation facility, and to make this contract or tariff available to eligible customer-generators, upon request on a first-come-first-served basis until the time that the total rated generating capacity used by eligible customer generators exceeds five percent of the electric utility's aggregate customer peak demand. (Public Utilities Code §2827)

5) Requires the CPUC for a large electric IOUs to have developed a second standard contract or tariff to provide NEM to additional eligible customer-generators in the IOU's service territory and imposes no limitation on the number of new eligible customer-generators entitled to receive service pursuant to this second standard contract or tariff. (Public Utilities Code §2827.1)

6) Establishes the Green Tariff Shared Renewables Program (GTSR) with 600 megawatts (MW) of renewable resources available to customers of the IOUs on a proportional basis to which a participating customer can subscribe. Prohibits the shifting of costs for the GTSR program to nonparticipating customers. Requires the CPUC to ensure that charges and credits for the GTSR are set in a manner that ensures nonparticipant ratepayer indifference for the remaining bundled service, direct access, and community choice aggregation (CCAs) customers, and ensures that no costs are shifted from participating customers to nonparticipating ratepayers. (Public Utilities Code §2831, *et seq*.)

This bill:

1) Revises the requirements of the customer renewable energy subscription program, among other things, to:

   a) Promote participation by low-income customers at levels commensurate with the opportunity to customer-generators as part of NEM.
   b) Provide bill credits to subscribers based on the avoided costs of a community renewable energy generators participating in the program if the community renewable energy generator is determined to be a load modifying resource.
   c) Require all community renewable energy generators participating in the program to have no more than five MW of generation capacity and no more than five MW of energy storage.
   d) limit the total program capacity to four gigawatts (GW) or end the enrollment of new community renewable energy generators in the program after seven years, whichever occurs first.

2) Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC), on or before December 1, 2027, to evaluate the load modifying potential of community renewable energy generators and identify attributes that CEC would expect a community renewable energy generator to meet to be classified as a load modifying resource

3) Requires the CPUC, 90 days following the completion of the evaluation by the CEC, to establish a mechanism to determine whether community renewable energy generators are load modifying resources consistent with the attributes identified by the CEC.

4) Requires the CPUC, 90 days following the establishment of the mechanism, to adopt or modify a customer renewable energy subscription program consistent with the revisions to the program made by this bill.

5) Requires the CPUC, within 24 months of the adoption or modification of a customer renewable energy subscription program and annually thereafter for the duration of the program, to submit to the Legislature a report on the community renewable energy generators participating in the program and customers subscribed. Repeals this requirement on January 1, 2034.

Background

What is Community Solar? The U.S. Department of Energy defines community solar as any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits of a solar project flow to multiple customers such as includes from various customer classes: residential, commercial, etc. Community solar can be designed in several ways, but the ultimate goal is to provide residents with more options to participate in solar projects. In most cases, customers are benefitting from energy generated by solar panels at an off-site array; however, there are also on-site multifamily community solar options where occupants of apartment and condominium buildings each benefit from the energy produced from the rooftop solar project. Additionally, who pays to plan, construct, and operate the solar project varies across the different community solar models – such as when a utility may own or operate a project that is open to voluntary ratepayer participation, or when customers themselves may collectively sign a contract with a third-party developer and be treated as departing load from their utility.

Community solar customers typically receive a bill credit for electricity generated by their share of the community solar system – similar to someone who has rooftop panels installed on their home and receives the NEM tariff. However, the value of that customer bill credit can also vary widely between community solar programs, with some more generous than others. Community solar can be a great option for people who do not own their homes, have financial constraints, or have insufficient roof conditions such as shading, roof size, or other factors and who desire to participate in a solar project.

Existing Community Solar Programs. There are community solar programs currently in place for eligible customers of California's large electric IOUs:

- Disadvantaged Communities-Green Tariff (DAC-GT) program.
- Community Solar Green Tariff (CSGT) program.
- GTSR program, which is comprised of two subprograms:
  - the Green Tariff (GT) option.
  - the Enhanced Community Renewables (ECR) option.

AB 327 (Perea, Chapter 611, Statutes of 2013) directed the CPUC to develop specific alternatives designed to increase adoption of renewable generation in disadvantaged communities. In 2018, the CPUC created several programs (Decision 18-06-027) aimed at increasing access to solar energy for residents of disadvantaged communities (DAC) located in one of the three large electric IOU

distribution service territories. These include: DAC-GT program and DAC-CSGT program.

In order to offset the high costs of these projects, electric IOU greenhouse gas (GHG) auction proceeds and public purpose funds from non-participating ratepayers are utilized. Prior to the establishment of the DAC programs, SB 43 (Wolk, Chapter 413, Statutes of 2013) directed the CPUC to establish the GTSR program. GTSR has the overall objective of expanding customer access to renewable energy and to build up to 600 MW in additional renewable facilities. GTSR includes both a GT option and an ECR option. Pursuant to statute, the costs of GTSR may not be borne by nonparticipants. The two GTSR programs are similar in structure to the two DAC community solar programs mentioned above:

- GT program: renewable facility is utility-scale and utility procured; open to all customers of states' three largest IOUs; customer pays the difference between their current charge for generation on their IOU bill and the cost of procuring either 50 or 100% renewables.

- ECR program: renewable facility is a local solar project; project size limited to 20 MW; facility developers must fulfill a "community interest requirement," where interested customers commit to enroll in 30% of the project's capacity or expressed interest to reach a 50% subscription rate ahead of time, and must have a minimum of three separate subscribers; customers agree to purchase a share of a local solar project directly from a solar developer, and in exchange, the customer will receive a credit from their utility for the customer's avoided generation and for their share of the benefit of the solar development to the utility; customers, in buying the solar generation directly from a third party, are treated as departing load. When an ECR customer moves within the IOU's territory they can retain their ECR subscription at their new service address.

Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH). Established by AB 693 (Eggman, Chapter 582, Statutes of 2015), the SOMAH program provided incentives for solar energy photovoltaic (PV) systems for multifamily affordable housing. SOMAH provides for up to $100 million annually from the electric IOUs GHG auction proceeds, up to $1 billion dollars over 10 years, to install 300 MW of capacity. The SOMAH program began accepting applications on July 1, 2019, receiving more than 200 applications on the first day it opened, and waitlists were started in the large electric IOUs' territories. The program website notes over 100 MW installed serving affordable housing units.

Solar ready buildings in the Title 24 Regulations. In May of 2018, as part of its regulation of building energy efficiency, the CEC adopted a requirement for the installation of solar system capacity on all new low-rise residential buildings. More specifically, the CEC regulations require: (a) installation of a certain sized solar system on a newly constructed, low-rise residential building; (b) successful exemption from the installation requirement in the event of excessive shade, roof design or other defined factors; or (c) development of a community solar project that offsets the load of the newly constructed, low-rise residential building. Builders are struggling to comply with the CEC's requirement. In particular, builders are looking to develop community solar projects as a means of compliance, which builders note are much cheaper to develop than rooftop solar.

Title 24 community solar compliance option. For a community solar project to comply with Title 24 it must (a) reduce the building's energy bill by an amount greater than the added cost to the building resulting in the building's share in the community solar project; (b) provide energy savings benefits dedicated to the building for no less than 20 years, and (c) be exclusively dedicated to the building. The CEC's community solar compliance option is conceptually analogous to the ECR component of GTSR. Current statute requires electric IOUs to support ECR projects that allow customers to contract directly with a third-party participating renewable developer to subscribe to a specific local renewable facility. The ECR component of the GTSR has been unsuccessful, to date at least, with only 10 MW (of a possible 600 MW) developed. To date, two utilities have community solar programs that satisfy the CEC's alternative compliance option, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and recently approved Plumas-Sierra electrical cooperative. SMUD's program is currently fully subscribed.

The Avoided Cost Calculator (ACC). The ACC is a complex determination of the benefits resources provide to the grid and all ratepayers. It calculates a monetary amount in $/kWh to value a resource. The ACC calculates the avoided costs of electricity resources based on generation energy, generation capacity, ancillary services, transmission and distribution capacity, GHG, and high global warming potential gases. For example, using Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E's) E-TOU-C residential rate for simplicity, the summer off-peak retail rate is 42¢/kWh, which corresponds to the hours that solar-only systems would export to the grid. The generation-only portion of that is 0.14¢/kWh. However, the avoided cost value for mid-day hours is closer to 0.01¢/kWh. NEM relies on the generous retail rate to compensate owner-generators, while other CPUC programs provide a generation-only rate. This bill's program compensates based on the avoided cost. The ACC is

updated annually to improve the accuracy of how benefits are calculated, taking inputs from various CPUC proceedings and California Independent System Operator (CAISO) wholesale market data. However, this annual updating may create volatility for programs relying on the ACC to determine credits or incentives values. For instance, the value of solar avoided costs has declined over the last decade. Cost shifts occur when the program's costs outweigh its benefits, and nonparticipants of the program are left covering the difference. This is the controversy associated with NEM – where customers with NEM are paid from collections of customers without NEM.

Comments

Need for this bill. The author states:

> California must build seven times the amount of solar, wind, and batteries every year for the next 25 years if we are to meet SB 100 goals. Unfortunately, nearly half of all California households are renters, and 70% of low-income households are renters, which in nearly any situation prevents onsite solar opportunities. AB 1813 provides a targeted way to build a robust community renewables program to lower electric bills for low-income households and renters, provide benefits to all ratepayers, and ease cost burdens for meeting the significant demand for new homes. Community Solar and Storage programs are an incredible tool the state can use to bridge this gap and ensure all Californian's can access the benefits of renewable energy.

AB 2316 (Ward, Chapter 350, Statutes of 2022). The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) filed a proposal similar to what is included in this bill in the CPUC's NEM proceeding. The CPUC's December 2020 proposed decision declined to adopt CCSA's proposal, stating it was premature and reiterating the CPUC's intent to review the broader aspects of community solar across the various programs. In 2022, AB 2316 was introduced and chaptered just as the CPUC was in the midst of evaluating the electric IOUs' community solar programs and with the desire to develop a new community solar program aligned with CCSA's proposal. The supporters of AB 2316 intended that the legislation would require the CPUC to adjust its proposal to reflect the desired elements CCSA sought, including a reliance on the ACC to determine the value of the energy from the community solar subscription program. Instead, the CPUC proposed a different community solar option that would not use the ACC and instead treat the new community solar energy akin to wholesale energy resources.

CPUC adopts decision on June 11th. To date, the CPUC has remained adamant about the need to treat these resources as wholesale energy resources and not rely on the ACC. On June 11th, the CPUC adopted a decision consistent with the treatment of the new community solar offering as a wholesale resource, the Community Renewable Energy tariff (CRET), which would rely on the Renewable Market Adjusting Tariff (ReMAT) as a cost and generation resource foundation with the ability to contract for 10, 15, or 20 years. The decision also caps each project at no more than three MW and the overall generation capacity at 750 MW proportioned across the three large electric IOUs, PG&E with 218.8 MW, SCE with 226 MW, and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) with 48.8 MW [minus the capacity already on contract]. In the decision the CPUC argued any costs recovered beyond those proposed would result in nonparticipant funded compensation that exceeds the avoided costs. They also noted that such a tariff could divert generation developers away from competitive solicitations in the wholesale market.

AB 1813 seeks to overturn CPUC decision and create adjusted community solar program. This bill seeks to create the community solar option sought by the proponents who have thus far been unsuccessful at securing their desired program at the CPUC. This proposal would also require energy storage (at five MW) with solar (at five MW) and a program cap of four GW. This bill would require the CEC to determine whether community solar subscription program would be a load-modifying resource. Electric IOUs oppose this provision, arguing such treatment is reserved for behind-the-meter demand response or energy efficiency resources. They take issue with suggesting that front-of-the-meter community solar installations could serve the same purpose. Proponents of this bill suggest the CEC could determine whether the resources are not load-modifying and therefore the compensation would be affected. However, they prefer to have the CEC conduct this analysis instead of the CPUC and require the CPUC within 90 days of the CEC's evaluation to establish a mechanism to determine whether community solar resources are load-modifying. This bill also provides that the community solar project can be sited in any area within the Local Reliability Areas determined by the CAISO. These areas can encompass multiple counties and hundreds of miles. To the extent community solar is intended to serve a local community, such large geographic areas raise concerns about whether the avoided costs on the transmission and distribution system are in fact being avoided to serve load. The proponents contend the electrons are still serving the need to the electrical grid and should therefore not be modified. They largely seek opportunities to provide greater financial certainty that these community solar projects will be built.

Prior/Related Legislation
(See Policy Committee Analysis.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The CEC estimates ongoing costs of about $2.7 million in the first year and $1.7 million annually thereafter (Energy Resource Program Account [ERPA]) to engage with stakeholders and develop a "load modifying" criteria for CREGs, collect and analyze data to understand the nature and capabilities of CREGs and their relation to the load subscribed to the projects, and provide policy support to understand load-serving entity procurement obligations and maintain alignment with related state electric system planning processes, among other things. The CEC warns that ERPA faces an ongoing structural deficit and may not be able to sustainably support new activities.
- Ongoing costs of an unknown but significant amount, likely over $3 million annually (ratepayer funds), for the CPUC to implement the provisions of this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Californians for Local Affordable Solar and Storage (Source)
Advanced Energy United
Brightline Action
California Building Industry Association
California Environmental Justice Alliance Action
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Sustainable Energy
Clean Coalition
Climate Health Now Action Fund
Coalition for Community Solar Access
Contra Costa County
Dayenu: a Jewish Call to Climate Action
Deploy Action
Dimension Energy
Environment California
GRID Alternatives
Nexamp
Natural Resources Defense Council

Peninsula Clean Energy
San Diego Community Power
Solar Energy Industries Association
The Climate Center
The Nature Conservancy
The Utility Reform Network
USA Properties Fund
U.S. Green Building Council California
Valley Vision
Vote Solar

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Public Advocates Office
San Diego Gas and Electric Company
Southern California Edison

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to Californians for Local Affordable Solar & Storage, the sponsor of this bill:

> AB 1813 would seek to rectify the failures of existing programs designed by the CPUC by setting more objective standards for the CPUC to evaluate participation levels. These clarifying amendments will ensure that community renewable energy projects are treated the same as other distributed resources. As the CPUC Public Advocates Office has stated, the CPUC should use the avoided cost calculator as "the Commission's single resource for avoided cost calculation across DER programs," which is consistent with CPUC policy that "there should be a single avoided cost model applied to all DER proceedings." (February 21, 2024 Opening Brief of the Public Advocates office in CPUC Docket 22-11-013, p. 39)

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Public Advocates Office states:

> AB 1813 would intervene in the ongoing [CPUC] proceeding by legislatively prescribing outcomes that the CPUC has not yet determined are cost-effective or affordable. This creates substantial risk that Californians who do not participate in these programs – including many working families and individuals who are already burdened by high utility bills – will subsidize projects whose full system benefits remain disputed.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-8, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa, Valencia
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Calderon, Castillo, Chen, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Gabriel, Gallagher, Hoover, Lackey, Nguyen, Pacheco, Patterson, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Soria, Ta, Wallis, Wicks

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/14/26 16:31:50

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1815
Author: Wicks (D) and Quirk-Silva (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Factory-built housing: building standards and local requirements

SOURCE: California Housing Consortium
Housing Action Coalition

DIGEST: This bill prohibits cities and counties from imposing or enforcing building standards that exceed state minimum building standards on a housing construction project that utilizes factory-built housing (FBH), as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 delete and replace an erroneous reference to the California Building Standards Commission to reference the Housing and Community Development Department.

1) Incorporate technical feedback from the administration regarding definitions applicable to factory-built housing.

2) Recast the definition of "factory-built housing" and "factory-built housing structure" to be calculated based on the percentage of building area, volume or size that uses factory-built components, rather than the percentage of project costs that uses factory-built components.

3) Recast provisions specifying that a city and county shall not impose or enforce local building standards on factory-built housing structures that exceed mandatory minimum building standards.

4) Explicitly prohibits cities and counties from imposing local energy efficiency and green building standards that exceed the state building standards on factory-built housing structures.

5) Restates and references the general ability of a city or county to make changes or modifications to the California Building Standards Code.

6) Requires cities and counties to make specified findings that adopting modifications or changes to the state building code are reasonably necessary to maintain minimum health and safety because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions, including but not limited to, wildfire risk and flood risk.

7) Provides that locally adopted modification or changes to the California Building Standards Code shall not become effective until the finding and modification is filed with the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC).

8) Provides that for the purposes of interpreting provisions related to local building codes, there shall be a rebuttable presumption in favor of a determination that facilitates the use of factory-built housing, and that the presumption may only be overcome upon a written finding supported by a preponderance of the evidence that such a determination would conflict with a state building standard or create a specific, adverse impact on public health or safety.

9) Makes technical changes and updates to definitions in FBH Law.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/2026 do the following:

1) Incorporate technical feedback from the administration regarding definitions applicable to factory-built housing.

2) Recast the definition of "factory-built housing" and "factory-built housing structure" to be calculated based on the percentage of building area, volume or size that uses factory-built components, rather than the percentage of project costs that uses factory-built components.

3) Recast provisions specifying that a city and county shall not impose or enforce local building standards on factory-built housing structures that exceed mandatory minimum building standards.

4) Explicitly prohibits cities and counties from imposing local energy efficiency and green building standards that exceed the state building standards on factory-built housing structures.

5) Restates and references the general ability of a city or county to make changes or modifications to the California Building Standards Code.

6) Requires cities and counties to make specified findings that adopting modifications or changes to the state building code are reasonably necessary to maintain minimum health and safety because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions, including but not limited to, wildfire risk and flood risk.

7) Provides that locally adopted modification or changes to the California Building Standards Code shall not become effective until the finding and modification is filed with the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC).

8) Provides that for the purposes of interpreting provisions related to local building codes, there shall be a rebuttable presumption in favor of a determination that facilitates the use of factory-built housing, and that the presumption may only be overcome upon a written finding supported by a preponderance of the evidence that such a determination would conflict with a state building standard or create a specific, adverse impact on public health or safety.

9) Makes technical changes and updates to definitions in FBH Law.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California FBH Law, which does the following:

    a) Defines "FBH" to mean a residential building, dwelling unit, or an individual dwelling room or combination of rooms thereof, or building component, assembly, or system manufactured in such a manner that all concealed parts or processes of manufacture cannot be inspected before installation at the building site without disassembly, damage, or deconstruction of the part, including units designed for use as part of an institution for resident or patient care, that is either wholly manufactured or is in substantial part manufactured at an offsite location to be wholly or partially assembled onsite in accordance with specified building standards and regulations. Excludes from the definition of FBH a mobilehome, recreational vehicle, or a commercial modular, as specified.

b) Defines "Design Approval Agency" (DAA) to mean a private organization meeting the requirements specified in Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) regulations to perform evaluation of FBH and factory-built specifications.

c) Requires all FBH manufactured after the effective date of the FBH building standards adopted under the FBH Law, that is sold or offered for sale to first users within California, to bear insignia of approval issued by HCD.

d) Requires all FBH bearing an insignia of approval to be deemed to comply with the requirements of all ordinances or regulations enacted by any city, county, or district that may be applicable to the construction of housing.

2) Establishes the CBSC within the Department of General Services, and requires the commission to approve and adopt building standards and to codify those standards in the California Building Standards Code. Requires CBSC to publish editions of the code in its entirety once every three years. In the intervening period the commission must publish supplements as necessary.

3) Requires CBSC to receive proposed building standards from a state agency for consideration in an 18-month code adoption cycle. Requires CBSC to adopt regulations governing the procedures for 18-month code adoption cycle.

4) Provides that only those building standards, that are approved by the CBSC and are in effect at the local level at the time an application for a building permit is submitted shall apply to the plans and specifications for construction, with exceptions for permits for residential dwellings based on model home designs approved under specified standards.

5) Pauses changes to building standards affecting residential units at the state and local level until 2031, with limited exceptions.

This bill:

1) Defines a "factory-built housing structure" to mean a residential building where at least two-thirds of the new or converted square footage is designated for residential use and in which at least 30 percent of the residential use portion of the building is built using factory-built housing, calculated based on the building's area, volume or size as determined by the licensed design professional responsible for the project and subject to concurrence by HCD or the DAA.

2) Specifies that a city, county, or district, shall not impose or enforce local building standards on factory-built housing structures that exceed or differ from the applicable mandatory standards in the California Building Standards Code.

3) Specifies that a city, county, or district shall not impose or enforce local amendments to the energy efficiency and green building standards that exceed or differ from the California Building Standards Code on factory-built housing structures.

4) Restates the ability of a city or county under existing law to make local changes and modifications to the requirements contained in the Building Standards Code.

5) Provides, pursuant to existing law, that a city or county must make specified findings that adopting modifications or changes to the state building code are reasonably necessary to maintain minimum health and safety because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions, including but not limited to, wildfire risk and flood risk.

6) Provides that a locally adopted modification or changes to the California Building Standards Code shall not become effective until the finding and modification is filed with the CBSC

7) Provides that for the purposes of interpreting provisions related to local building codes, there shall be a rebuttable presumption in favor of a determination that facilitates the use of factory-built housing, and that the presumption may only be overcome upon a written finding supported by a preponderance of the evidence that such a determination would conflict with a state building standard or create a specific, adverse impact on public health or safety.

Background

Factory-Built Housing. FBH refers to industrialized housing construction, where either the entirety of, or components of, a housing unit are produced or assembled in an offsite factory, or both, and then transported to the housing site. FBH is often colloquially referred to as modular, or prefabricated housing. Where traditional "site-built" or "stick-built" housing is entirely constructed on a foundation at the actual housing site, FBH utilizes the efficiencies of an assembly line, similar to a car or an appliance. Entire units and modules are assembled in a climate-controlled factory and are much less susceptible to construction delays associated with traditional housing construction (*e.g.,* disruptive weather). While benefits may vary by project and jurisdiction, the Terner Center for Housing Innovation at

University of California, Berkeley (Terner Center), finds that using FBH methods has the potential to reduce hard costs for a project by 10-25% and significantly reduce build times, compared to traditional construction.[1]

Comments

Author's statement. "California urgently needs to embrace innovation to solve our housing crisis. Modern construction methods like [FBH] hold so much potential to produce housing more quickly, more affordably, and in a more environmentally friendly manner. But our regulatory framework is constraining the industry's growth and adoption. AB 1815 will create the standardization that factories need to scale across the state. Building all factory-built housing projects to the state's building standards code prevents fragmentation across California's 540 local jurisdictions. This will create a clear, consistent pathway for factories to successfully scale up production across the state, producing housing more quickly and more affordably at a time when we need it most."

FBH in California. FBH may be installed where other similar types of dwelling units are allowed. Existing law allows local governments to exercise specified local land use requirements with respect to FBH, but local requirements imposed on FBH may not differ substantially from requirements imposed on other residential buildings of the same size.

HCD maintains building code and plan approval authority over FBH. HCD currently contracts with various Design Approval Agencies (DAAs) who perform third-party review and approval of FBH designs according to regulations established by HCD and the building standards governing FBH. HCD approves Quality Assurance Agencies (QAAs) that inspect FBH during the production phase in the manufacturing facility or offsite. In-plant inspections are conducted by a third-party agent certified by HCD to ensure FBH and modular buildings meet state codes and standards during the manufacturing process. Approved FBH must bear a California Insignia of Approval on each FBH system or component in the project.

Zoning codes and building codes. California FBH Law currently allows local agencies to impose "local use zone" or zoning requirements, and certain categories of building standards on FBH projects, provided that the standards do not deviate

[1] Stephanie Hawke, et. al. *Potential Pathways to Scale Innovative Construction Methods in California.* Accessible here: **https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PathwaystoScaleInnovativeConstruction2026.pdf**. March 2026.

substantially from standards imposed on similar residential structures. Existing law specifies that in addition to zoning requirements, local agencies can impose building setbacks, side and rear yard requirements, site development, property line, and architectural requirements on FBH projects; these standards are all duplicative examples of zoning code requirements, which statute already reserves for local agencies to impose. This bill removes these superfluous references. Removing these references to zoning code standards removes excess language from statute but does not have a practical effect on the ability of local agencies to impose zoning requirements that apply broadly to residential structures in the jurisdiction such as setback requirements, and requirements for off-street parking.

The more substantive changes in this bill stems from provisions that remove the ability of a city or county to impose or enforce building standards that exceed the state minimum building standards on any projects where FBH components comprise 15% of the vertical construction costs of each structure in the project. An exception to this preemption is made for locally adopted flood resistance and wildfire safety standards.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) indicates that this bill would impose ongoing workload to collect, validate, and store reported data on congregate housing units or RCFEs, and provide technical assistance to local agencies, as well as one-time costs to update the housing element APR form and to update IT systems. HCD notes that there are multiple pending bills that would impact APR requirements, and that if several such bills are enacted, total costs would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Staff estimates that workload directly attributable to this bill would likely exceed $50,000, and could be as high as $150,000 if no other APR bills are enacted and HCD would still be responsible for one-time fixed costs to update forms and IT systems, and to provide ongoing data collection and technical assistance services.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Housing Consortium (Co-source)
Housing Action Coalition (Co-source)
Aids Healthcare Foundation
Autodesk, INC.
Bay Area Council

California Council for Affordable Housing
California Downtown Association
California Yimby
Casita Coalition
Cbia
Circulate Planning & Policy
City of Oakland
Council of Infill Builders
Dignitymoves (UNREG)
East Bay Yimby
Eden Housing
Elevate California
Grow the Richmond
Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco
Inner City Law Center
Leadingage California
Mountain View Yimby
Napa-solano for Everyone
Northern Neighbors Sf
Peninsula for Everyone
San Francisco Yimby
San Jose Yimby
San Mateo Forward
Santa Cruz Yimby
Santa Rosa Yimby
South Bay Yimby
Southern California Association of Non-profit Housing
Student Homes Coalition
The California Housing Partnership
Ventura County Yimby
Yes! in Redwood City
Yimby Action
Yimby Los Angeles
Yimby Monterey Peninsula
Yimby Slo
Zillow Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/2026)

California State Association of Electrical Workers
California State Pipe Trades Council

Western States Council Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Housing Consortium, and the Housing Action Coalition are sponsoring this measure. They argue that building code fragmentation standards as one of the barriers that slows production timelines and poses risks for factory-built housing. They further note, that by allowing all factory-built housing projects to be built to the state building code, AB 1815 creates the standardization needed for factories to successfully scale up production across California.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California State Association of Electrical Workers, the California State Pipe Trades Council, and the Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers oppose this bill. They note that FBH factories are often located outside of California, creating a risk that portion of California based construction work will be outsourced to factories out of state with weaker labor standards. They argue that this bill should be amended to include a Buy California/ Buy America mandate for factory-built components, and that the bill should establish strong labor standards..

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Boerner, Bryan, Hart, Jackson, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Hank Brady / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 11:28:20

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1830
Author: Petrie-Norris (D), Calderon (D), Lackey (R) and Ransom (D), et al.
Amended: 8/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/11/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Pérez, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cortese

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-1, 8/11/26
AYES: Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NOES: Cortese

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Ignition interlock devices

SOURCE: SAFE California Roads Coalition

DIGEST: This bill makes the installation of an ignition interlock device (IID) mandatory upon conviction of a first driving under the influence (DUI) offense involving alcohol; adopts a mandatory IID/restricted license model for alcohol-involved DUI convictions; allows a first-time DUI offender to opt for suspension of their driving privilege in lieu of maintaining a restricted license and IID; requires a 30-day (pre-conviction) administrative license suspension prior to a person applying for a restricted license for a DUI involving alcohol; creates a suspension/restricted license framework for drug-only DUI convictions; broadly reorganizes and consolidates existing DUI-related statutes; and repeals the existing statewide IID pilot program and other provisions of law made obsolete by the provisions of this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Makes it unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage; who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood; who has 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood and is driving a commercial vehicle or a motor vehicle when a passenger for hire is a passenger in the vehicle; or is under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug to drive a vehicle. (Vehicle (Veh.) Code, § 23152, subds. (a), (b), (d), (e), (g).)

2) Makes it unlawful for a person who is addicted to the use of any drug or who is under the influence of any drug to drive a vehicle. (Veh. Code, § 23152, subds. (c) & (f).)

3) Makes it unlawful for a person to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver, while the person is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage; has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood; has 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood while driving a commercial motor vehicle or motor vehicle when a passenger for hire is a passenger in the vehicle; or is under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug. (Veh. Code, § 23153, subds. (a), (b), (d), (e), (g).)

4) Makes it unlawful for a person, while under the influence of any drug, to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver. (Veh. Code, § 23153, subd. (f).)

5) Provides that convictions for DUI, DUI causing bodily injury, and a "wet reckless" are considered prior convictions for purposes of DUI sentencing. (Veh. Code, § 23550.)

6) Requires the DMV to immediately suspend the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle for any one of the following reasons:

a) The person was driving a motor vehicle when the person had 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood.
b) The person was under 21 years of age and had a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.01 percent or greater, as measured by a preliminary alcohol screening test, or other chemical test.
c) The person was driving a vehicle that requires a commercial driver's license when the person had 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood.
d) The person was driving a motor vehicle when on probation for a DUI and the person had 0.01 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood, as measured by a preliminary alcohol screening test or other chemical test. (Veh. Code, § 13353.2, subd. (a).)

7) Outlines the following administrative (i.e., pre-conviction) license suspension timelines: 4 months for a first DUI; and 1 year for a second or subsequent DUI. (Veh. Code, §§ 13353.2, 13353.3.)

8) Prohibits the driving privilege from being restored, and a restricted or hardship permit to operate a motor vehicle from being issued, to a person during the specified suspension or revocation period, except as provided. Prohibits the driving privilege from being restored after a suspension or revocation until all applicable fees have been paid and the person submits proof of financial responsibility to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). (Veh. Code, § 13353.4.)

9) Allows a person subject to an administrative license suspension to apply for a restricted license if the person: satisfactorily provides proof of enrollment in licensed DUI program; installs a functioning, certified IID on any vehicle that the person operates and submits the "Verification of Installation" form; agrees to maintain the functioning, certified IID; was 21 or older at the time the offense occurred and provides proof of financial responsibility; and pays all applicable reinstatement or reissue fees. (Veh. Code, § 13353.6, subd. (a).)

10) Requires that a person whose driving privilege has been administratively suspended, who is eligible for a restricted driver's license, and who installs a functioning, certified IID, receive credit toward the mandatory term the person is required to install an IID for a conviction of a violation arising out of the same occurrence that led to the person's driving privilege being suspended equal to the period of time the person installs an IID under the administrative process. (Veh. Code, § 13353.6, subd. (d).)

11) Allows a person subject to an administrative license suspension to apply for a restricted license limited to travel to and from the activities required by a licensed DUI program that the person is enrolled in as well as to and from and in the course of the person's employment. Requires the DMV to suspend the person's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for 30 days and then issue the person a restricted driver's license, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 13353.7.)

12) Outlines a process by which a person subject to an administrative license suspension who has a prior DUI-related conviction may obtain a restricted license, including a requirement to install an IID. (Veh. Code, § 13353.75.)

13) Requires the DMV to immediately suspend or revoke the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle upon the receipt of an abstract of the record of a court showing that the person has been convicted of DUI or DUI causing bodily injury. (Veh. Code, § 13352, subd. (a).)

14) Outlines the following suspension and revocation periods for a person upon conviction of a DUI, and prohibits the driving privilege from being reinstated until the person submits proof of financial responsibility and successful completion of a DUI program, as specified:

    a) For a first DUI, 6-month license suspension.
    b) For a first DUI causing bodily injury, 1-year license suspension.
    c) For a DUI with one prior, 2-year license suspension.
    d) For a DUI causing bodily injury with one prior, 3-year license revocation.
    e) For a DUI with two priors, 3-year license revocation.
    f) For a DUI causing bodily injury with two priors or punishable as a felony, 5-year license revocation.
    g) For a DUI with three priors or punishable as a felony, 4-year license revocation. (Veh. Code, § 13352, subd. (a)(1)-(7).)

15) Permits a person to apply for a restricted license following a DUI conviction if certain requirements are met, including installing an IID. Provides that the restricted driving privilege remains in effect until all reinstatement requirements are satisfied. (Veh. Code, § 13352, subds. (a) & (e).)

16) Requires a person whose driving privilege is restricted to arrange for each vehicle with a functioning, certified IID to be serviced by the installer at least once every 60 days in order for the installer to recalibrate the device and

monitor the operation of the device. Requires the installer to notify the DMV if the device is removed or indicates that the person has attempted to remove, bypass, or tamper with the device, or if the person fails three or more times to comply with any requirement for the maintenance or calibration of the ignition interlock device. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, subd. (i); 13353.6, subd. (f).)

17) Requires the driving privilege to be suspended for 10 months when a person is convicted of DUI and whose BAC was 0.20 percent or more, by weight. Prohibits the privilege from being reinstated until the person gives proof of financial responsibility and successful completion of a DUI program. Permits a person to apply for a restricted license if certain requirements are met, including installing an IID. Provides that the restricted driving privilege remains in effect until all reinstatement requirements are satisfied. (Veh. Code, § 13352.1, subds. (a)-(d).)

18) Provides the following IID terms for a person required to install a functioning, certified IID upon conviction of a DUI involving alcohol:

    a) For a person convicted of a violation of DUI involving alcohol with no priors, the court may order an IID for up to six months.
    b) For a person convicted of a violation of DUI involving alcohol with one prior, the person is subject to a mandatory 12-month IID term.
    c) For a person convicted of a violation of DUI involving alcohol with two priors, the person is subject to a mandatory 24-month IID term.
    d) For a person convicted of a violation of DUI involving alcohol with three or more priors, the person is subject to a mandatory 36-month IID term. (Veh. Code, § 13353.75, subd. (h)(1).)

19) Provides the following IID terms for a person required to install a functioning, certified IID upon conviction of a DUI involving alcohol and causing bodily injury:

    a) For a person convicted of a violation with no priors, the person is subject to a mandatory 12-month IID term.
    b) For a person convicted of a violation with one prior, the person is subject to a mandatory 24-month IID term.
    c) For a person convicted of a violation with two priors, the person is subject to a mandatory 36-month IID term.

d) For a person convicted of a violation with one prior in the previous 10 years punishable as a felony, the person is subject to a mandatory 48-month IID term. (Veh. Code, § 13353.75, subd. (h)(2).)

20) Requires an IID manufacturer to agree to provide functioning, certified IIDs to DUI offenders at reduced costs when the offender is eligible for reduced costs. Provides that the failure of the manufacturer, its agents, or authorized installers to comply with the fee schedule specifying reduced fees for eligible offenders will result in suspension or revocation of the DMV's approval for the manufacturer to market IIDs in this state. (Veh. Code, § 13386, subd. (h).)

21) Requires every IID manufacturer and manufacturer's agent certified by the DMV to provide IIDs to adopt the following fee schedule that provides for the payment of the costs of the certified IID by offenders in amounts commensurate with that person's income relative to the federal poverty level (FPL):

a) A person with an income at 100 percent of the FPL or below and who provides income verification is responsible for 10 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
b) A person with an income at 101 to 200 percent of the FPL and who provides income verification is responsible for 25 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
c) A person with an income at 201 to 300 percent of the FPL and who provides income verification is responsible for 50 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
d) A person who is receiving CalFresh benefits and who provides proof of those benefits to the manufacturer or manufacturer's agent or authorized installer is responsible for 50 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
e) A person with an income at 301 to 400 percent of the FPL and who provides income verification is responsible for 90 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
f) All other offenders are responsible for 100 percent of the cost of the IID.
g) The manufacturer is responsible for the percentage of costs for which the offender is not responsible. (Veh. Code, § 23575.3, subd. (k)(1).)

22) Requires the IID provider to verify the offender's income to determine the cost of the IID by verifying specified following documents. (Veh. Code, § 23575.3, subd. (k)(2).)

23) Establishes a statewide IID pilot program, which sunsets on January 1, 2033, that does the following:

    a) Requires a court to order the installation of an IID for repeat DUI offenders and any DUI causing bodily injury to another person, as follows:
        i) For a period of one year for a person convicted of a DUI involving alcohol (or both alcohol and drugs) with one prior, or a first-time DUI causing bodily injury to another person;
        ii) For a period of two years for a person convicted of a DUI involving alcohol (or both alcohol and drugs) with two priors, or a DUI causing bodily injury to another person with one prior;
        iii) For a period of three years for a person convicted of a DUI involving alcohol (or both alcohol and drugs) with three or more priors, a DUI causing bodily injury to another person with two priors, or a prior specified DUI conviction punishable as a felony. (Veh. Code, § 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)(B)-(D).)
    b) Authorizes the court to order the installation of an IID for a first-time DUI offender for a period not to exceed six months from the date of conviction, or allows the offender to apply for a restricted driver's license upon specified conditions. Specifies that only one of these sanctions may be imposed. (Veh. Code, § 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)(A).).

24) Requires a person subject to an IID to arrange for each vehicle they operate to be equipped by a functioning, certified IID by a certified provider, provide proof of installation to the DMV, and pay a fee, determined by the DMV, sufficient to cover the costs of administration. (Veh. Code, § 23575.3, subds. (d) & (f).)

This bill:

1) Requires the DMV to immediately suspend the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle when the person was driving a motor vehicle when a passenger for hire was a passenger in the vehicle when the person had a 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood.

2) Requires a person subject to an administrative license suspension for a DUI involving alcohol to apply for a restricted license after a 30-day license suspension.

3) Eliminates the course of employment exception to the IID requirement in order to obtain a restricted license for purposes of an administrative license suspension.

4) Establishes the following license suspension timelines for a drug-only DUI conviction:

   a) For a first DUI, the privilege is suspended for 6 months.
   b) For a DUI causing bodily injury, the privilege is suspended for 12 months.
   c) For a second DUI, the privilege is suspended for 24 months.
   d) For a second DUI causing bodily injury, the privilege is suspended for 36 months.
   e) For a DUI with two priors, the privilege is suspended for 36 months.
   f) For a DUI causing bodily injury with two priors, the privilege is suspended for 48 months.
   g) For any DUI with three or more priors, the privilege is suspended for 60 months.

5) Requires that certain conditions are met for the driving privilege (suspended due to a drug-only DUI) to be reinstated. Requires that the person provide proof of financial responsibility to DMV, provide proof of successful completion of a licensed DUI program, as specified, and pay all reinstatement and reissue fees.

6) Allows a person subject to a license suspension for a drug-only DUI to apply for a restricted license if the person provides proof of financial responsibility to DMV, completes a minimum specified period of the suspension period, provides proof of enrollment or participation in a licensed DUI program, as specified, and pays all reinstatement and reissue fees.

7) Requires a DUI program that a person is required to be enrolled in to report any failure to participate in the program to the DMV. Outlines a process to request a review of the finding that the person has failed to comply with the program requirements to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), requires DHCS to review the request, and requires DHCS to notify the person and the DUI program of their finding. Permits the DMV to reinstate any restricted license terminated as a result of the notification.

8) Requires, upon a conviction for a DUI involving alcohol, the driving privilege to be suspended. Prohibits the privilege from being reinstated until the person meets specified requirements, including maintaining a restricted license (which requires the installation of an IID) for a specified period of time. Provides the following restricted license periods:

   a) For a first DUI, restricted license for 6 months.
   b) For a first DUI causing bodily injury, restricted license for 12 months.
   c) For a DUI with one prior, restricted license for 24 months.
   d) For a DUI causing bodily injury with one prior, restricted license for 36 months.
   e) For a DUI with two priors, restricted license for 36 months.
   f) For a DUI causing bodily injury with two priors, restricted license for 48 months.
   g) For a DUI with three priors, restricted license for 60 months.
   h) For a first DUI with a BAC of .20 or higher, restricted license for 10 months.

9) Allows a first-time DUI offender to opt for suspension of their driving privilege in lieu of maintaining a restricted license and IID.

10) Revises the fee schedule for reduced IID fees as follows:

   a) A person with an income at 125 percent of the FPL or below and who provides income verification is responsible for 10 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
   b) A person with an income at 126 to 225 percent of the FPL and who provides income verification is responsible for 25 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.
   c) A person with an income at 226 to 325 percent of the FPL and who provides income verification is responsible for 50 percent of the cost of the manufacturer's standard IID program costs, and any additional costs accrued by the person for noncompliance with program requirements.

11) Provides that a person is not responsible for any IID costs, including installation, service, and maintenance, due to malfunctions of the IID unrelated to the person's non-compliance.

12) States that its provisions do not go into effect until January 1, 2031.

13) Makes other technical and conforming changes, including repealing existing provisions of law made obsolete by the provisions of this bill.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Significant one-time and ongoing state costs (Motor Vehicle Account (MVA), General Fund) to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV reports that it would be required to modify forms, promulgate regulations, and make IT modifications prior to the January 1, 2031, implementation date. DMV indicates that these costs are estimated at $3-6 million. Ongoing costs within the range would depend on the technology solutions ultimately adopted. The bill includes cost-recovery mechanisms through the restriction and reinstatement process, similar to those used in the existing pilot program. These estimates do not account for any supplemental funding that may be available (such as through the Office of Traffic Safety) to support implementation and help offset costs.

The MVA, the primary funding account for the California Highway Patrol and the DMV is facing insolvency. In a report, the LAO noted that, "Until a plan is put in place to address MVA's structural deficit, we recommend the Legislature set a high bar for considering approval of any proposals that create additional MVA cost pressures and accelerate the risk of insolvency." In the Governor's proposed 2026-2027 budget, the Governor stated that, "the Budget currently projects that the MVA will be insolvent as soon as 2028-29. Given the ongoing fiscal constraints in the MVA, the Administration will continue to limit new workload or initiatives, including those with delayed implementation dates that would create additional cost pressures over time."

Unknown, potential state costs to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to review relevant documents or evidence and to make determinations of whether a person failed to participate in a DUI program, as specified, and to notify the person and the DUI program of their findings.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

SAFE California Roads Coalition (source)
AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Alcohol Justice
American College of Surgeons, Southern California Chapter
Auto Club of Southern California
California Alcohol Policy Alliance
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Professional Firefighters
City of Sunnyvale
Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving
Safety and Advocacy for Empowerment
Yolo County District Attorney

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

ACLU California Action
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Public Defenders Association
Courage California
Debt Free Justice California
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union
San Francisco Public Defender
Smart Justice California
Universidad Popular

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez,

Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Bryan, Elhawary, Kalra, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/19/26 21:37:55

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1832
Author: Ransom (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Pérez, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: 2-1-1 information and referral response system

SOURCE: 211 California
Family Resource Center San Joaquin
United Ways of California

DIGEST: This bill creates the 211 Fund in the State Treasury for the 211 system and related purposes, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, and directs the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to allocate the funds as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Designates Cal OES as the lead state agency responsible for addressing natural, technological, or man-made disaster and emergencies, including activities necessary to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters to people and property.

2) Authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to supervise and regulate every public utility, including telephone companies, in the state and do all things necessary and convenient in the exercise of such power.

This bill:

1) Establishes the 211 Fund in the State Treasury, subject to legislative appropriation, and provides the moneys in the fund shall be used for the 211 system and related purposes.

2) Requires Cal OES to allocate the funds to the California 211 Providers Network, known as 211 California, to implement the activities specified in this bill.

3) Provides that the 211 Fund shall be used for the following purposes, as specified:

   a) Enhancing critical 211 system capacity and service quality;

   b) Providing equitable access to 211 dialing and services;

   c) Publishing a statewide 211 community needs data dashboard;

   d) Strengthening 211 community resource databases and enabling data sharing;

   e) Promoting public awareness about 211; and,

   f) Improving 211 system readiness, infrastructure, and capacity to respond to disasters and all hazard events.

4) Directs 211 California to provide an annual report to Cal OES on the status of the 211 system, use of any funds, and future 211 system funding needs.

5) Requires Cal OES to administer the 211 Fund solely for the purpose of allocating moneys appropriated from the Fund to 211 California and for receiving and reviewing the annual report required in 4) above.

6) Authorizes OES to recover up to $100,000 per fiscal year for its reasonable administrative costs.

Background

What is 211? In 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 211 as the free telephone number to obtain information and referral (I&R) services

to various health and human services programs, such as physical and mental health resources, housing, utility, food and employment assistance. 211 also provides related preparedness, response, and recovery services during and after disasters and emergencies.

211 California. As described in its 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, 211 California is a statewide 501(c)3 nonprofit organization consisting of more than 20 local and regional 211 providers that deliver coverage to over 98% of California's population. According to 211 California, most 211 providers facilitate additional service navigation and care coordination that go beyond a referral. These services include accessing care services for the homeless, conducting benefits screening and enrollment for health and human services programs, recommending caregiver support programs, providing Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) safety planning for vulnerable households, arranging transportation and trip planning assistance, and collaborating with county and community partners to determine additional program eligibility. In 2025, 211 California providers responded to 1.8 million calls and texts. The most common requests involved housing assistance and food programs.

Statewide 211 coverage. As part of its action to reserve the 211 dialing code, the FCC encouraged states to implement 211 for access to I&R services. In response, the CPUC, under its authority to regulate telephone companies, issued an order in 2002 deploying the 211 system to counties and establishing administrative procedures for implementing 211 dialing in California. The CPUC further designated 211 California to serve as a single point of coordination and implementation in achieving statewide 211 coverage. An entity seeking to provide 211 services must apply to the CPUC for authority to use the 211 dialing code.

According to the CPUC, as of 2024, 45 of the state's 58 counties, covering approximately 99.3% of California's population, have 211 service. Of the 13 rural counties that do not have access to full 211, nine only offer disaster 211 service, meaning it is only activated and operational specifically in response to emergencies and disasters. The CPUC indicates it is working with various agencies and nonprofit organizations to extend 211 service to these remaining unserved areas.

211 and disaster response. 211 California reports that during major emergencies 211 providers often handle five to ten times the normal call volume. Due to the increasing role of 211 in disaster response, 211 California created 211Now **(**www.211Now.com**),** a dedicated online resource hub and emergency portal to support Californians during disasters, community distress incidents, PSPS events and other emergencies. The online platform supplies live information regarding

road closures, evacuation routes, shelters, food and medical assistance, and provides power outage support to electricity-dependent individuals with access and functional needs (AFN) in impacted communities. According to the Office of AFN within Cal OES, 211 is a trusted resource and essential community partner that provides important information and services to help individuals with AFN and their families stay informed, connected, safe and healthy.

Sustainability and funding challenges. Currently, the 211 system in California lacks a lead state agency to provide operational oversight and program sustainability. Prior legislative attempts to identify a state agency to administer 211 or establish a governance structure, via the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), have not been successful.

The lack of a centralized state administrative entity for the 211 system also means 211 activities vary widely across the state. For example, according to 211 California's 2025 Annual Report, some counties partner with their respective 211 providers to deliver PSPS programming and support, while Los Angeles County partnered with its 211 affiliate, 211 LA, to report hate crimes under funding provided by the California Department of Civil Rights. 211 LA also served as a critical community resource for emergency response during the Los Angeles area wildfires in 2025.

Unlike the 911 emergency and 988 crisis response lines which have dedicated funding through telephone surcharges, 211 in California is funded through a fragmented mix of public and private sources, including charitable donations, grants, private foundations, local and state agencies for specific purposes, utility partnerships, and fee-for-service contracts. 211 California notes in its annual report that as more states contribute funding to support their 211 systems, California's lack of reliable public funding further exacerbates 211 service capacity and access inequities statewide.

This bill seeks to establish a structured arrangement between Cal OES and 211 California by directing Cal OES to administer moneys in a newly created 211 Fund to 211 California for the purposes described in the bill. The operation of the 211 Fund and its related purposes would be contingent on an appropriation by the Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown, ongoing General Fund cost pressures, likely in the tens of millions of dollars, to provide additional funding for 211 system enhancements. For context, the author's office has submitted a budget request for $20 million in one-time funding; however, it is ultimately unknown at what level an appropriation for the bill might be made.

- While the bill specifies Cal OES administer the 2-1-1 Fund solely for the purpose of allocating moneys to 211 California, Cal OES may require additional resources to do so. The bill authorizes Cal OES to recover only up to $100,000 per fiscal year to cover its administrative costs. To the extent that administrative costs rise above this threshold, there may be additional workload and cost pressures for Cal OES.

- Staff notes that even if Cal OES does not assume a significant administrative role, the office would still likely incur additional workload, with associated costs potentially in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars, to create funding allocation criteria and evaluate reports for future fund distributions.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

211 California (co-sponsor)
Family Resource Center San Joaquin (co-sponsor)
United Ways of California (co-sponsor)
211 LA
211 Sacramento
211 San Diego
AARP
American Medical Response
California 211 Providers Network
California Association of Food Banks
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
Champions for Vibrant Health Leadership Network
Community Action Partnership of Kern
Community Link Capital Region
Contra Costa Crisis Center
Edison International
Emergency Food Bank of Stockton/San Joaquin
Inland Empire Health Plan Foundation
Inland Southern California United Way
Lift to Rise

Operation Dignity
Orange County United Way
San Joaquin County Office of Education
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Self-Help Enterprises
Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster
Southern California Edison
Supervisor Katrina Foley, Orange County Board of Supervisors, District 5
Tracy Community Connections Center
United Way Bay Area
United Way of Merced County
United Way of Northern California
United Way of San Joaquin County
United Way of Stanislaus County
United Way of the Wine Country
United Way of Tulare County
United Way Santa Cruz County

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the co-sponsors, 211 California, Family Resource Center San Joaquin and United Ways of California write that, "Simply put, our service organizations, counties, 9-1-1, and 9-8-8 need 2-1-1 to function so they can do their jobs and people can get the right kind of live help they need at the right time. This bill would support critical emergency management integration and ensure core operational capacity and infrastructure for the 2-1-1 system in California."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Wilson

Prepared by: Cassie Royce / E.M. /
8/17/26 10:42:53

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1841
Author: Ramos (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State holidays: Native American Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, entitles state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day," in lieu of a personal holiday, as specified, and authorizes any state bargaining unit to negotiate for a paid holiday on Native American Day, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address conflicting statutory chaptering issues with similar legislation, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/18/26 require that the implementation of this bill be contingent upon appropriation by the Legislature, rather than upon the determination of the Department of Human Resources that sufficient funds exist to provide a holiday for all state employees, and add coauthors, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that it is the policy of the state that the workweek of the state employee is 40 hours, and the workday of state employees is eight hours, except as specified.

2) Provides that all state employees are entitled to the following holidays: January 1, the third Monday in January, the third Monday in February, March 31, the last Monday in May, July 4, the first Monday in September, November 11, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, December 25, the day chosen by an employee as a personal holiday, and every day appointed by the Governor of this state for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday.

3) Authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for the date known as "Lunar New Year," the date known as "Genocide Remembrance Day," the date known as "Diwali," the date known as "Juneteenth," or the date known as "Native American Day," in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit, as specified.

4) Authorizes a state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for observance of a holiday or ceremony of the state employee's religion, culture, or heritage in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit, as specified.

5) Entitles every employee, upon completion of six months of his or her initial probationary period in state service, to one personal holiday per fiscal year, as specified.

6) Establishes the fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day," as a holiday in this state.

This bill:

1) Provides that, upon appropriation by the Legislature, all state employees shall be entitled to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day," in lieu of the personal holiday, as specified.

2) Authorizes any state bargaining unit to negotiate to receive this day as a paid holiday as a part of their memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "Native American Day is a celebration honoring California's First People, their cultures, their achievements, and their resilience after centuries of violence and discrimination. It serves as a reminder that while the state has taken meaningful steps toward addressing the historical injustices committed against Native communities, the work of healing the deep scars that remain has only begun. Establishing Native American Day as an official state holiday affirms the state's commitment to building a long and meaningful relationship with its sovereign tribes. It acknowledges that despite years of displacement and violence, California's First People remain and will continue to be an essential part of the state's history and culture."

Native American Day. Among other things, information provided by the author states that, "[under] Section 19853 of the Gov. Code, Native American Day, the 4th Friday of September, is listed as one of the available holidays state employees may observe using their yearly allowance of personal holidays." While this policy acknowledges Native American Day as a holiday and allows state employees the option to observe it with pay, the policy does not adequately emphasize the significance of this day to California's history and culture.

In 2021, the California Legislature passed AB 855 (Ramos, Chapter 283, Statutes of 2021) making Native American Day a paid judicial holiday and removing Columbus Day from its approved list of observed holidays. This change was part of the Judicial Branch's ongoing efforts to modernize itself and provide recognition of the importance of diversity within the court system. However, while the Judicial Branch now formally observes Native American Day, the remainder of state government does not. Under current law, most state employees may observe the day only by using a personal holiday, which results in an uneven recognition and inconsistent treatment of this important cultural holiday for California tribes. This bill is intended to correct that disparity and ensure that Native American Day is recognized uniformly across all branches of state government.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2017 (Haney, 2026) would add the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as "Eid al-Fitr," and the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as "Eid al-Adha" to the existing list of state holidays, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2294 (Ta, 2026) designates "Sylvia Mendez Day" as a state holiday, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2455 (Haney, 2026, Chapter 49, Statutes of 20026) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 17 as "Bruce Lee Day," and designates and sets apart that date each year as having special significance, as specified.

AB 855 (Ramos, Chapter 283, Statutes of 2021) replaced Columbus Day with Native American Day as an approved judicial holiday.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, CalHR reports annual costs of approximately $16.3 million ($12.2 million General Fund) to provide state employees with an additional paid holiday. While the bill makes the holiday contingent upon a determination by CalHR, the department notes that assessing fund sufficiency falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Finance.

Additionally, if the holiday is phased in over-time across multiple bargaining units, CalHR notes that overall state costs will change, and likely increase, depending on unit membership, salary ranges, and future wage increases.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California Native Vote Project
California Rural Indian Health Board, INC.
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Office of the Mayor - City of San Bernardino
Redding Rancheria
Service Employees International Union, Local 1000
Wilton Rancheria
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
Yurok Tribe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the California Native American Vote Project writes that, "[a]s an organization dedicated to advancing civic engagement and political power in Native American communities across California, the California Native Vote Project works to ensure Native voices are heard, respected, and represented at all levels of government. Recognizing Native American Day as an official state holiday aligns with our mission to uplift Native identities, cultures, and histories, and reflects an ongoing commitment to equity, visibility, and tribal sovereignty."

Further, "AB 1841 would make Native American Day, the fourth Friday in September, an official paid holiday for state employees. We believe this bill elevates the importance of this historic day, not just for native people, but all Californians. Native American Day is a celebration of the resilience of California's First People and their struggle for survival. More importantly, it serves as a reminder to all that there is still more work to be done to help heal the scars of violence and discrimination that many tribes bare to this day.

And finally, "[i]n addition to its symbolic importance, Native American Day would serve as an opportunity for the public to learn more about California's history. Formal recognition would encourage communities to dedicate time to learning about the people who inhabited these lands long before it was ever a state."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: DeMaio, Gallagher, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/24/26 11:23:43

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1844
Author: Pacheco (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 3/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Judges' Retirement System II: beneficiaries

SOURCE: California Judges Association

DIGEST: The bill allows a judge in the Judges' Retirement System II (JRS II) who retires on or after January 1, 2027, and elects specified optional retirement payment plans to designate a beneficiary other than their spouse to receive continuing retirement benefits after the judge's death, subject to the community property rights of the judge's spouse.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Judges' Retirement System II System (JRS II) to provide a defined benefit retirement plan for judges who were first elected or appointed to the bench on or after November 9, 1994. (Government Code § 75500 et seq.)

2) Designates the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) board as JRS II's board of administration. (Government Code § 75502 (h))

3) Authorizes JRS II to pay a pension allowance to a judge upon qualifying for retirement either by serving on the bench for 20 years and reaching age 65; serving on the bench 5 years and reaching age 70; or leaving the bench after serving 15 years and reaching age 60, or after serving 10 years and reaching age 65, and deferring retirement until the number of years that would have qualified them for retirement. (Government Code §§ 75522 and 75522.5)

4) Caps a judge's retirement allowance to no more than 75 percent of the judge's final compensation. (Government Code § 75522 (d)(2))

5) Requires the state to contribute monthly to a judge's personal retirement account, 18 percent of the judge's monthly salary and an additional amount credited monthly at a rate, not less than zero, equal to JRS II's annual investment return from the prior fiscal year. These monies are designated as the judge's Monetary Credits. (Government Code § 75520)

6) Allows a retiring judge to opt to receive the judge's Monetary Credits, either as a lump sum or an annuity, instead of the judge's JRS II retirement allowance.

7) Requires the state to make variable, actuarial-determined employer contributions to JRS II, currently projected to be 22.18 percent of judges' payroll for 2026-27. (Government Code § 75600.5)

8) Requires judges to make employee contributions equal to 8 percent of their monthly salary for JRS II classic members and one-half the normal cost for JRS II PEPRA members, projected to be 16.75 percent for 2026-27. (Government Code § 75601)

9) Provides a judge who does not qualify for a retirement allowance but who has served at least 5 years to receive the judge's Monetary Credits.

10) Provides a judge who does not serve 5 years an amount equal to the judge's employee contributions.

11) Provides, in the event of a judge's death, a survivor's benefit to the judge's spouse, including domestic partner. The survivor benefit available depends on if the judge died before or after retirement, and if the former, whether the judge was eligible for a service or deferred retirement. The survivor benefit is designed into the funding mechanism of the JRS II plan and does not require

the judge to opt for a reduced pension to fund it. (Government Code § 75590 et seq.)

12) Provides, in the event of a judge's death, a separate benefit from the survivor benefit, known as an optional settlement benefit which is also payable to the judge's surviving spouse. The optional settlement benefit available depends on if the judge died before or after retirement, and if the former, whether the judge was eligible for a service or deferred retirement. In contrast to the survivor benefit, if the judge chooses to provide a retirement allowance to the judge's surviving spouse under the optional settlement benefit, the judge must take a reduction in the judge's pension allowance to fund the optional settlement. (Government Code § 75571 et seq.)

13) Restricts or reduces certain JRSII benefits if the judge is divorced based on the community property rights of the judge's ex-spouse. (Government Code § 75550 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Expands beneficiary designation options under JRS II by allowing judges who retire on or after January 1, 2027, and elect specified optional retirement payment plans, to designate a beneficiary other than their spouse to receive continuing retirement benefits after the judge's death, subject to the community property rights of the judge's spouse.

2) Provides that if a nonspouse beneficiary waives the continuing benefit, the judge's retirement allowance would be restored to the amount that would have been payable had the optional settlement not been elected.

3) Specifies that these changes must be implemented on a cost-neutral basis and may not increase employer costs.

4) Expands eligibility for the survivor benefit available to the surviving spouse of a judge who dies while in office by eliminating the requirement that the judge have at least 20 years of judicial service.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) indicates that implementation costs would be minor and absorbable.

- This bill would increase state costs by expanding eligibility for survivor benefits and eliminating certain actuarial gains currently recognized by the Judges' Retirement System II (JRS II). According to CalPERS' most recent actuarial cost analysis, the bill would increase JRS II's accrued liability by approximately $3 million, from $2.802 billion to $2.805 billion, and reduce the system's funded status by 0.1 percentage point, from 106.5 percent to 106.4 percent. The bill would also increase the total normal cost rate by 0.07 percentage point, from 34.01 percent to 34.08 percent, resulting in a corresponding increase in the employer normal cost rate from 22.96 percent to 23.03 percent. This increase would result in additional annual employer costs of approximately $297,000 (Judges' Retirement System II Fund). The PEPRA member contribution rate would remain unchanged at 16.75 percent.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

California Judges Association (source)
Judicial Council of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the California Judges Association:

"Under current law, JRS II generally permits only a spouse or registered domestic partner to receive ongoing survivor pension benefits. As a result, unmarried judges—including those with long-term partners, adult children, or other dependents—cannot designate a beneficiary to receive continuing retirement benefits following their death. This limitation is unique to JRS II; other major California public retirement systems, including CalPERS, CalSTRS, and the University of California Retirement Plan, permit the designation of non-spouse beneficiaries."

"AB 1844 modernizes the system by authorizing judges to designate a non-spouse beneficiary to receive survivor retirement benefits and by aligning survivor benefit elections with standard vesting requirements. These changes ensure that vested judges are able to protect a beneficiary in the event of death while maintaining actuarial neutrality within the system."

According to the Judicial Council of California:

“Assembly Bill 1844 ensures that all judges have the same access to survivor benefits for their loved ones on an equal basis and thereby assists the branch in recruiting and retaining a diverse and highly qualified bench. Under current law, judges who are unmarried are at a disadvantage relative to those who are married in providing support for their heirs if they outlive them.

Similarly, judges who are vested by virtue of reaching age 70 and at least 5 years of service cannot provide the same level of survivor benefit as those who are vested by reaching age 65 with 20 years of service. Assembly Bill 1844 will remedy those inequities in an actuarially neutral manner to ensure that these features of JRS II do not provide a disincentive to taking or continuing judicial service for those judges who are unable to access these survivor benefits under existing law.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 3/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ávila Farías, Berman, Carrillo, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Glenn Miles / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/17/26 10:42:54

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1845
Author: Krell (D), et al.
Amended: 6/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Student safety: human trafficking

SOURCE: 3Strands Global Foundation
American Association of University Women of California
California Survivor Coalition

DIGEST: This bill establishes specific policies and procedures that postsecondary educational institutions must adopt to address incidents of human trafficking on campus, including providing training for employees of postsecondary educational institutions about human trafficking prevention and ensuring that all incidents of human trafficking are recorded and reported to law enforcement.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Requires each eligible institution receiving federal financial assistance, as defined, to collect information with respect to campus crime statistics and campus security policies of that institution, including statistics concerning the occurrence on campus of the following criminal offenses reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies: murder, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, manslaughter, arson, and arrests or persons referred for campus disciplinary action for liquor law violations, drug-related violations, or weapons possession. This also includes crimes in which the victim is intentionally selected due to specified characteristics, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking incidents, and hazing incidents. (United States Code (USC) Title 20, Chapter 28, Subchapter IV, Part G, § 1092)

2) Establishes Title IX, providing that, in part, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." (USC Title 20, Chapter 38, § 1681 (commonly known as Title IX))

3) Outlines the required response, pursuant to Title IX, of a postsecondary higher education institution when the institution is made aware of an alleged sexual harassment incident on campus, which include a requirement for a formal complaint, a grievance procedure for an investigation into whether the incident based on a standard of evidence occurred, a hearing by which advisors are provided an opportunity to cross-examine, and a method of appealing the outcome of the grievance process. (Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Part 106, Subpart D, § 106.45)

4) Defines sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination and as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies at least one of the following:

   a) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee of the postsecondary education institution conditions aid, benefit, or services to a postsecondary education institution's education program or activity on the individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

   b) *Hostile environment harassment.* Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity.

c) *Specific offenses.* Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, as defined in the USC. (CFR, Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Part 106, Subpart A, § 106.2)

Existing state law:

1) Requires that each postsecondary educational institution, as specified, receiving public funds for student financial assistance do all the following:

   a) Require the appropriate officials at each campus to compile records of both of the following:

      i) All occurrences reported to campus police and security, and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus that involve violence, hate violence, theft, destruction of property, illegal drugs, or alcohol intoxication.

      ii) All occurrences of noncriminal acts of hate violence, as defined.

   b) Require any written record of noncriminal hate violence to include, but not be limited to, a description of the hate violence, the victim's characteristics, and the offender's characteristics, if known.

   c) Make information concerning crimes reported pursuant to #1a to be made available within two days following the request from any student or employee of a campus, or the media, unless the information is exempt. The disclosure shall be done in a manner that does not disclose the identity of the victim without the permission of the victim.

   d) Require the appropriate officials at each campus to prepare and make available a campus safety plan.

   e) Requires the appropriate officials at each campus to report information relating to hate violence on campus; which will be made available to the appropriate governing board and the public.

   f) Requires any report made regarding a Part 1 violent crime, sexual assault, or hate crime received by campus security authorities to be immediately reported to appropriate local law enforcement agency for investigation. The reporting will be done in a manner that withholds the victim's identity unless the victim has consented to being identified.

g) Prohibits this code section from applying to institutions with less than 1,000 students or to the California Community Colleges (CCCs) unless the Legislature has made funds available for the intended purpose. (Education Code (EC) § 67380)

2) Requires the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), the Regents of the University of California (UC), and the governing boards of independent postsecondary institutions to adopt rules requiring their respective campuses to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement agencies to clarify the operational responsibilities for investigations of Part 1 violent crimes, sexual assaults, and hate crimes. This section is known as the Kristin Smart Campus Safety Act of 1998. (EC § 67381)

3) Requires the governing board of each community college district (CCD) to adopt rules requiring CCC campuses to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement agencies that clarify operational responsibilities for investigations of Part 1 violent crimes occurring on campus. Stipulates that once a governing board of a CCD adopts these specified rules requiring its campuses to update an agreement, the governing board of a CCD will be subject to the requirements of #2 instead of this section. (EC § 67381.1)

4) Requires a postsecondary educational institution—as defined, as a condition for participation in the Cal Grant Program, and by July 1, 2015—to adopt and implement written policies, and procedures to ensure that any report of a Part 1 violent crime, sexual assault, or hate crime received by campus authorities, that is made for the purpose of notifying the institution or law enforcement, is immediately, or as soon as practically possible, forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Maintains requirements for a victim's identity to be withheld unless the victim consents to disclosure. (EC § 67383)

5) States that a person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services, or with the intent to effect or maintain a violation of specified sections of the Penal Code, including taking away a minor from their parent or guardian without their consent for the purpose of prostitution, is guilty of human trafficking. (Penal Code (PC) § 236.1)

6) States that a person who causes, induces, or persuades, or attempts to cause, induce, or persuade, a person who is a minor at the time of commission of the

offense to engage in a commercial sex act, with the intent to effect or maintain a violation of specified sections of the Penal Code, is guilty of human trafficking. (PC § 236.1)

This bill:

1) Requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, to include as part of the training it provides for employees:

   a) The definition of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

   b) Myths and misconceptions about human trafficking.

   c) Physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.

   d) Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.

   e) Protocols for how to report human trafficking to campus and non-campus authorities.

2) Requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, to ensure each employee annually completed the specified training.

3) Clarifies that a postsecondary institution is not required to provide separate training for identification of human trafficking and may include the specified training in an existing employee training required by the institution.

4) Specifies that an employee of a postsecondary institution failing to report human trafficking to a postsecondary institution or to local law enforcement agencies does not, by itself, result in the liability of a postsecondary institution.

5) Requires a postsecondary institution to post and display the specified model notice on the institution's website and in a prominent location on campus.

6) Requires every postsecondary institution who receives student financial aid assistance from the state to do both of the following:

   a) Requires the appropriate officials at each postsecondary institution receiving student financial assistance to compile records on all occurrences reported to campus police, and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus and

that involve human trafficking, in addition to other crimes for which officials are already statutorily required to compile records.

b) Require any report made by a victim or employee of a postsecondary institution of human trafficking—in addition to other crimes already specified in statute—received by campus authorities and made by the victim for purposes of notifying the institution or law enforcement, to be immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, disclosed to the local law enforcement agency with which the institution has a specified written agreement without identifying the victim, unless the victim consents to being identified after the victim has been informed their right to have their personally identifying information withheld.

7) Removes language excluding the California Community Colleges (CCCs) from disclosing and reporting specific crimes that occur on campus to the authorities and the public unless the Legislature makes funds available to the CCCs for this purpose.

8) Amends the Kristin Smart Campus Safety Act of 1998 to include human trafficking requirements and to include the community colleges as required postsecondary educational institutions. Specifically, requires the governing board or body of postsecondary educational institutions to adopt rules requiring each campus to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement for the operational clarity regarding the responsibilities of investigating of human trafficking on campus, in addition to other crimes. Clarifies the written agreements will designate which law enforcement agency will have operational responsibility for investigating each human trafficking incident, in addition to other crimes.

9) Repeals Education Code Section 67381.1 as it is no longer operationally necessary.

10) Requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition to receive state funds for student financial assistance, to adopt a policy concerning incidents of human trafficking that involve students, faculty, or staff. Requires the policy include all of the following:

a) A statement that human trafficking is a state and federal crime.

b) A statement that a conviction of human trafficking by a criminal court is a violation of the student and employee code of conduct.

c) The physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.

d) Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.

e) The protocols for how to report an incident of human trafficking to local law enforcement, the appropriate campus authorities, and the contact information for national hotlines for reports of human trafficking.

11) Requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition for participation in the Cal Grant Program, adopt and implement written policies and procedures to ensure that any report of human trafficking—in addition to other crimes already specified in statute—received by campus authorities and made by the victim for purposes of notifying the institution or law enforcement, is immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency, by July 1, 2027, instead of July 1, 2015.

12) Defines for purpose of the entire measure "human trafficking" as a violation of section 236.1 of the Penal Code.

13) Makes conforming and technical amendments to provisions of the Education Code.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "In 1972, Title IX was federally enacted to prohibit sex-based discrimination, like sexual harassment or sexual violence, in any education program receiving federal funds. While human trafficking and sexual exploitation through online platforms, social networks, recruitment or coercive relationship constitute severe forms of gender-based violations under Title IX, existing law does not require the inclusion of human trafficking in campus training and protocols."

Moreover, the author states, "Victims of human trafficking can be of any age, sex, race, ethnicity, immigration status or socioeconomic class. College students can be vulnerable to environmental risk factors such as housing instability, lack of social or familial support, or naivety to exploitive situations. Traffickers may recruit students on campus, at off campus parties, online or at local bars. A study conducted among college students on 12 Southern California campuses found that 42% of students reported having known someone who sold sex or was trafficked as a college student. … California colleges are in a unique position to reach students

who may be vulnerable to exploitation and sex trafficking due to environmental risk factors such as housing instability, lack of social or familial support, or naivety to exploitive situations. AB 1845 ensures that sexual harassment policies are updated to include human trafficking identification and prevention. Expanding existing strategies to prevent human trafficking recruitment is vital to protecting the safety of college students."

Expanding the definition of human trafficking in the Education Code by including both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Human trafficking is not explicitly defined as one of the sexual assault crimes included within the jurisdiction of Title IX. However, the Education Code provides that "sexual exploitation" means a person taking sexual advantage of another person for the benefit of anyone other than that person without that person's consent, which may include "the trafficking of another person, defined in the inducement of a person to perform a commercial sex act, or labor or services, through force, fraud, or coercion", among other acts. This definition is specific to sex trafficking, but this bill broadens the definition of human trafficking by using a definition in the Penal Code that is inclusive of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

This bill establishes specific policies and procedures for postsecondary educational institutions to address incidents of human trafficking on campus. This bill expands the definition of human trafficking and clarifies processes for how colleges and universities should address human trafficking, and requires postsecondary educational institutions of the following, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance:

- Ensuring that employees complete annual training on human trafficking prevention and how to report human trafficking.

- Posting and displaying a model notice on human trafficking on the institution's website and in a prominent location on campus.

- Compiling records of all occurrences of human trafficking reported to campus authorities, and report this information to the local law enforcement agency as well as the governing board or body of the institution.

- Entering into written agreements with law enforcement agencies that clarify operational responsibilities for investigations of human trafficking.

- Adopting a policy concerning incidents of human trafficking that involve students, faculty, or staff, including a statement that human trafficking is a state and federal crime and a statement that a conviction of human trafficking by a criminal court is a violation of the student and employee code of conduct.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of between $15,000 and $29,000 per district, or $1 million to $2.1 million statewide, to develop or update a policy on human trafficking. The costs for the training content are minimal since free materials from the Department of Justice (DOJ) are allowed to be used.

- The CSU estimates minor and absorbable costs for campuses to update existing staff training on sexual harassment/violence to include the required information on human trafficking. There may also be increased workload to establish or update memoranda of understanding with local police as necessary, resulting in additional, unknown costs. Further, the CSU indicates there would be minor, one-time administrative costs per campus to post the required model notices.

- The UC estimates minor and absorbable costs to update training and relevant policies.

- The DOJ anticipates no significant fiscal impact as a result of the bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

3Strands Global Foundation (co-source)
American Association of University Women of California (co-source)
California Survivor Coalition (co-source)
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/15/26 12:41:18

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1846
Author: Stefani (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Stern

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Dependency: placement of child with relative

SOURCE: Children's Law Center of California
County Welfare Directors Association
Dependency Legal Services

DIGEST: This bill clarifies that the relative placement preference for a child who is a dependent of the juvenile court extends throughout the dependency proceeding, unless and until parental rights are terminated, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the juvenile court, which has jurisdiction over minors who are suffering or at substantial risk of suffering harm or abuse and may adjudge the

minor to be a dependent of the court. (Welfare and Institutions Code (Welf. & Inst. Code), § 300.)

2) States that it is the intent of the Legislature to preserve and strengthen a child's family ties whenever possible and to reunify a foster youth with their biological family whenever possible, or to provide a permanent placement alternative, such as adoption or guardianship. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 16000.)

3) Requires a county to petition the juvenile court for a detention hearing, within 48 hours of placing a child in temporary custody, to determine whether a child should remain in custody and whether any specific court permissions are necessary to provide for the health and safety of the child. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 313, 319.)

4) Requires a social worker, within 30 days of removing a child from the custody of their parents, to conduct an investigation in order to identify and locate any grandparents, siblings, or other adult relatives of the child, including any other adult relatives suggested by the child, and, unless a relative's history of family or domestic violence makes notification inappropriate, notify the family member of the following:

   a) That the child has been removed from their parents' custody.

   b) An explanation of the various options to participate in the care and placement of the child and support for the child's family, as specified. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 309(e).)

5) Requires the social worker, at the initial petition hearing on a petition to make a child a dependent of the juvenile court, to report to the court on topics including whether there are any relatives who are able and willing to take temporary physical custody of the child. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 319(b).)

6) Provides that, if the court does not order the child released from custody and returned to their parents at the hearing in 5), the court must order the temporary placement of the child; preference must be given to placement in the home of a relative, or if no relative is available, a nonrelative extended family member, as defined. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 319(h).)

7) Requires the court, after finding that a child is a dependent of the juvenile court, to hold a hearing on the disposition of the child (the "dispositional hearing"); at this hearing, the court must determine whether to return the child to their parents' custody. If the court does not return the child to their parents' custody, the court must make additional determinations, including:

a) Where to place the child pending the possible return to their parents' custody, including a finding as to whether the social worker exercised due diligence in conducting its investigation into whether any of the child's relatives would be willing to accept placement of the child.

b) Whether to order reunification services to the parents. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 358, 361.5.)

8) Requires the social worker's report to the court, filed in advance of the dispositional hearing, to include the appropriateness of any relative placement for the child and, when the child has been placed in an approved relative's home on a short-term basis, whether the relative desires and is willing to be appointed the child's legal guardian. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 358.1.)

9) Provides that, in any case where the juvenile court removes a child from their parents' physical custody, preferential consideration shall be given to a request by a relative of the child for placement of the child with the relative, regardless of the relative's immigration status, and that the social worker and court shall consider specified factors in determining whether placement with a relative is appropriate. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 361.3(a).)

10) Provides that, in any case in which more than one relative requests preferential consideration, each relative shall be considered; this provision does not limit a social worker's ability to place a child in the home of a relative or a nonrelative extended family member pending the consideration of other relatives who have requested preferential consideration. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 361.3(b).)

11) Requires, following the dispositional hearing, that whenever a new placement of the child must be made, consideration for placement shall again be given as described under 9) to any relative who has not been found to be unsuitable and who will fulfill the child's reunification or permanent plan requirements; the social worker shall consider, in addition to the other factors, whether the relative has established and maintained a relationship with the child. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 361.3(d).)

12) Requires the social worker, in advance of every status hearing to review a parent's progress toward regaining custody of their child, to include in its report to the court, for a child who does not reside with their relatives or nonrelative extended family members, information about the social worker's efforts to locate relatives or nonrelative extended family members who could potentially provide family support of a placement for the child. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 366.1 & 366.21.)

13) Requires the court, in cases where parental rights have been terminated, to determine whether to place the child for adoption or to establish a legal guardian for the child; in such cases, the application of any person who, as a relative caretaker or foster parent, has cared for the child for whom the court approved a permanent plan for adoption or who has been freed for adoption, shall be given preference with respect to that child over all other applications for adoptive placement if the agency making the placement determines that the child has substantial emotional ties to the relative caretaker or foster parent and removal from the relative caretaker or foster parent would be seriously detrimental to the child's wellbeing. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 366.21, 366.26.)

This bill:

1) Clarifies that the preferential consideration given to a request by a relative of the child to take custody of the child who has been removed from their parent's custody extends for the duration of a dependency matter unless and until parental rights have been terminated.

2) Requires a social worker, if a relative makes a request for placement after the dispositional hearing and until family reunification services are terminated, to assess that relative for placement, provided that the relative has not been previously assessed and found to be unsuitable, pursuant to the existing statutory factors.

3) Provides that, if a relative requests placement after the termination of reunification services, the county social worker and the court must consider all of the following factors in addition to the existing statutory factors:

   a) The child's relationship with the current caregiver.

   b) The child's progress toward permanency with the current caregiver.

   c) The child's placement preference, if found to be age- and developmentally appropriate.

4) Provides, notwithstanding 2), that if the county welfare agency has complied with family finding relative notification requirements and the relative's initial request for placement occurs after family reunification services have been terminated, the social worker may exercise discretion to conduct an initial assessment; if the social worker declines to do so, the court may order the assessment at the request of any party or the relative if the court determines that the assessment is in the best interest of the child.

5) Provides that 2)-4) do not apply if reunification services were not provided, as specified.

6) Requires a juvenile court, if it does not initially place the child with a relative who has been considered for placement, to state on the record the reasons that the placement was denied or delayed.

7) Clarifies, where the child is an Indian child, as defined, the placement of the child to comply with applicable state and federal law.

8) Requires, whenever a new placement for a child must be made, consideration for placement to again be given, using the existing order of preference and considerations, to relatives who have not been found to be unsuitable and who will fulfill the child's reunification or permanent plan requirements; in making a placement decision, the social worker shall also consider whether the relative has established and maintained a relationship with the child.

9) Clarifies that nothing in Section 361.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code prevents the juvenile court from ordering placement with a relative following the dispositional hearing or from giving the social worker the discretion for a placement change into the appropriate home of a relative.

Comments

Research shows that a child taken from the custody of their parent, guardian, or Indian custodian will suffer fewer negative outcomes if they are placed with a trusted relative or other person with whom they have a family-like relationship, rather than with a stranger. To this end, California law establishes a relative placement reference when a child is taken into custody and declared a dependent of the juvenile court, and the child's social worker is required to make efforts to find any suitable relatives for a placement, and such relatives are given preference over any other placement alternatives.

According to the author and sponsor, there are ambiguities in the relative placement preference statutes that have led to confusion over the duration and application of the relative placement preferences. This bill is intended to clarify that the relative placement preference extends throughout a child's dependency proceeding unless and until parental rights are terminated, and that a child may be placed with a suitable relative—even if they have already been placed with a nonrelative—if the social worker or court deem the new placement in the child's best interests. This bill also clarifies that a relative requesting a placement must be assessed if the request comes prior to the termination of reunification services, and

gives the social worker or court the discretion to assess the suitability of a requested placement if the request comes after the termination of reunification services.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal effect is as follows:

> Up to $125,000 in FY 2026-27 and up to $250,000 annually thereafter for social workers to complete the additional documentation of assessing any relative who requests placement. (General Fund)
>
> Estimated $90,000 additional funding is provided by Title IV E of the Social Security Act, with the amount of Federal Financial Participation based on the 50 percent administration rate for those cases meeting federal eligibility criteria. (federal funds)
>
> Although these county workload costs are mandated by the state, they are not reimbursable but instead must be funded by the state pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012). Proposition 30 requires legislation enacted after September 30, 2012, that has an overall effect of increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by realignment to apply to local agencies only to the extent the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. (General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Children's Law Center of California (co-source)
California Welfare Directors Association (co-source)
Dependency Legal Services (co-source)
Alliance for Children's Rights
Back to the Start
Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
County of Fresno
County of Monterey
County of Stanislaus
County of Ventura
Family Law Executive Committee of the California Lawyers Association
Seneca

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Children's Law Center of California, the California Welfare Directors Association, and Dependency Legal Services:

> California's statute is clear that the relative preference applies in the initial stage of a dependency case or any time a new placement must be made. While the statute does not express a time limit on the relative preference, there is some ambiguity in the law that has led to different interpretations and practices throughout the state. In some situations, the law has been interpreted to preclude the social worker from even having discretion to assess a relative for placement to determine if that placement would be in the best interests of the child(ren). This is inconsistent with the legislative intent of relative preference, and also with recent and ongoing efforts in law and policy to remove barriers and prioritize placement with kin.
>
> AB 1846 resolves these issues and aligns with significant state and county efforts to promote a kin-first culture by clarifying that the relative preference applies until family reunification services have been terminated. AB 1846 further grants the social worker or the court discretion to assess a relative if they request placement after family reunification services have been terminated. This critical legislation recognizes the positive impacts of kinship care and bolsters California's commitment to honor and prioritize keeping families together.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Dixon, Flora, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/17/26 10:54:42

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1871
Author: Fong (D), et al.
Introduced: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships

SOURCE: Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

DIGEST: This bill changes the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment program by removing the requirement that participating students obtain a principal recommendation, requiring CCAP agreements to permit students to complete a single community college application for the duration of their participation, eliminating the existing limit of four college courses per term while retaining the 15-unit cap, and revising state reporting requirements to emphasize student outcomes.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

1) Authorizes community college districts to enter into a CCAP partnership agreements with school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to expand dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not already be college-bound or who are underrepresented in higher education. (Education Code (EC) § 76004)

2) Requires CCAP partnership agreements to be approved by the governing boards of participating entities and to include specified provisions related to courses offered, information sharing, facilities use, and student participation. (EC § 76004)

3) Requires, as part of CCAP participation protocols, parental consent and a principal recommendation, and provides that participating students need only submit one parental consent form and principal recommendation during their participation in the partnership. (EC § 76004)

4) Requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to revise the special part-time student application process so that a student participating in a CCAP partnership may complete a single community college application for the duration of participation. (EC § 76004)

5) Authorizes a student participating in a CCAP partnership to enroll in up to 15units per term if specified conditions are met, provided those units constitute no more than four community college courses per term. (EC § 76004)

6) Requires participating community college districts and local educational agencies to annually report specified participation and completion data to the Chancellor's Office, including enrollment, course-taking, course completion, and full-time equivalent students (FTES) information. (EC § 76004)

This bill:

1) Deletes the requirement that CCAP participation protocols require a student to obtain a recommendation from the principal to participate in a CCAP partnership.

2) Requires CCAP partnership agreements to establish protocols authorizing participating students to complete a single community college application for the duration of their attendance as a special part-time student under the CCAP partnership.

3) Removes the existing limitation that restricts CCAP students enrolled under the 15-unit exception to no more than four community college courses per term.

4) Retains the existing 15-unit maximum per term for participating students.

5) Revises annual reporting requirements by replacing the requirement to report the total number of community college courses taken by CCAP participants with outcome-oriented measures.

6) Requires annual reporting of the total number of participating students who:

   a) Successfully complete 12 or more units of college coursework before graduation;

   b) Complete a certificate; or

   c) Complete the coursework required for an associate degree or an associate degree for transfer.

7) Requires reporting of successful course completions by instructional modality, including online and in-person coursework.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "CCAP program was established to enable high school students to take college courses at their school sites, easing logistical barriers. CCAP is an invaluable resource for high school students, setting students up for success in both their academic and professional lives. Despite the benefits of dual enrollment programs, dual enrollment participation has not been equitable for all students. According to the CCCCO, participation rates were measured at 13.9% among white students, 10.9% among Latino students, and 10.8% among the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

   "AB 1871 will ensure more equitable access to dual enrollment opportunities for all students by streamlining the application process so that a student completes only one application for the duration of their attendance at a community college as a unique part-time student participating in a CCAP agreement. This will avoid confusion of the application process and remove an unnecessary hurdle that limits access to dual enrollment opportunities. To address potential bias in application approvals, this bill will also remove the requirement that the school principal approves a student's CCAP application. Applicants from certain racial or ethnic backgrounds may be unfairly favored or discriminated against, which has led to biased outcomes in approving applications. Furthermore, this bill will eliminate the four community college courses per term limit to give students flexibility in meeting the current 15-unit

cap on dual enrollment courses. By removing this restriction, students can accumulate more college credits while still in high school, easing the transition to college and reducing future tuition costs. Lastly, AB 1871 will streamline the CCAP reporting requirements so that more outcome-driven data is collected to evaluate the program effectively."

2) *Continued legislative interest in expanding dual enrollment participation.* Over the last decade, the Legislature has made significant investments in dual enrollment as a strategy to improve college access, accelerate postsecondary attainment, and strengthen college and career pathways. Those efforts include the creation of the CCAP framework in 2015, subsequent statutory refinements, and more recent state investments through the Golden State Pathways Program and Dual Enrollment Funding Opportunity Program. Participation has grown substantially during that period, with nearly 150,000 California students participating in dual enrollment by the Class of 2024. Research consistently finds that students who participate in dual enrollment are more likely to enroll in college, accumulate postsecondary credits, and complete degrees.

   This bill continues that policy trend by focusing on administrative barriers that stakeholders argue may discourage student participation without directly advancing academic goals.

3) *Administrative streamlining versus local discretion.* Several provisions of this bill seek to simplify participation in CCAP partnerships. Requiring students to repeatedly complete community college applications and obtain principal recommendations may create additional administrative steps that vary across local partnerships. The bill therefore standardizes certain participation procedures and reduces local gatekeeping requirements.

   At the same time, the Legislature may wish to consider whether the principal recommendation requirement serves any meaningful purpose within the CCAP framework. Existing law already requires parental consent and local partnership agreements approved by governing boards. If principal recommendations are rarely used to screen students or identify readiness concerns, their removal may have little practical effect. Conversely, if some districts rely on principal recommendations as part of local student support and advising processes, the bill would reduce local discretion in favor of a more uniform statewide approach.

4) *Aligning reporting requirements with student outcomes.* Current law primarily emphasizes participation metrics, such as enrollment levels, courses taken, and course completion rates. This bill shifts part of the reporting framework toward student outcomes, including completion of at least 12 college units, certificates, and coursework leading to associate degrees or associate degrees for transfer.

   This change reflects a broader policy question regarding how the success of dual enrollment programs should be measured. While participation data remains useful for understanding access and scale, outcome measures may provide a clearer picture of whether students are progressing along meaningful postsecondary pathways. The additional data required by this bill could help policymakers evaluate not only how many students participate in CCAP partnerships, but also whether those experiences are translating into measurable academic progress before high school graduation.

5) *Course limits and accelerated pathways.* Current law allows CCAP students to enroll in up to 15 units per term but separately limits those units to no more than four college courses. Because many community college courses carry three units, the four-course restriction can effectively prevent some students from fully utilizing the 15-unit authorization.

   By removing the course-count limitation while retaining the overall unit cap, the bill creates greater flexibility for students enrolled in structured pathways designed to lead to certificates, credentials, or degree completion. The change appears intended to better align statutory course limits with the Legislature's growing interest in accelerated college and career pathways that allow students to accumulate meaningful postsecondary credit while still in high school.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

This bill could result in annual Proposition 98 General Fund costs, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, for additional state apportionments due to increased CCAP enrollment and program participation. However, the bill's exact costs would depend on the number of new students that participate and the number of courses being taken.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (source)
Advanced Consulting, LLC

Alameda County Office of Education
Alliance for a Better Community
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Associated General Contractors, California Chapters
Black Women Organized for Political Action
Blu Educational Foundation
California Alliance of Dual Enrollment Partnerships
California Catholic Conference
California Charter Schools Association
California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office
California Community Foundation
California EDGE Coalition
Campaign for College Opportunity
Career Ladders Project
Career Launch Path
Central American Resource Center of California
Children Now
College for All Coalition
Community College League of California
Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas
EdTrust-West
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Future Leaders of America
Go Public Schools
Immigrants Rising
Innercity Struggle
Journey House
Just Equations
Kid City Hope Place
Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley
Latino Education Advancement Foundation
Linked Learning Alliance
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Angeles Urban Foundation
Mission Graduates
NextGen California
Prismatic Research & Strategy
Puente Learning Center
San Diego Unified School District

Small School Districts Association
Southern California College Attainment Network
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
The RP Group
uAspire
UC Student Association
Unite-LA
University of California Student Association
Young Invincibles

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:42:57

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1881
Author: Ramos (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 10-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Indian Freedom Act of 2026

SOURCE: Indigenous Justice

DIGEST: This bill establishes a framework for California Native American tribes to exercise their religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands, and requires a governmental agency to obtain free, prior, and informed consent of any affected tribe before undertaking any project action on state lands that may pose a risk to sacred sites, as specified; these provisions will take effect on January 1, 2028.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 delay the operative date of the bill to January 1, 2028; provide that items of cultural, sacred, or religious significance may, as needed, be screened through technical means, and require items that cannot be admitted into specified government buildings to be stored and held for the California Indian visitor; and provide that a governmental agency may substantially burden a California Indian or California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practice on state lands, without applying this bill's strict scrutiny standard, as necessary to protect public safety and security.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Provides that, on and after August 11, 1978, it shall be the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiian peoples, including, but not limited to, access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites. (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1996.)

2) Establishes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which provides that a government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results form a rule of general applicability, unless the government demonstrates that the burden is both:

   a) In furtherance of a compelling government interest.

   b) The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest. (42 U.S.C. § 2000bb-1.)

3) Provides that 3) cannot be enforced against state and local laws. (*City of Boerne v. Flores* (1997) 521 U.S. 507, 532-536.)

4) Establishes the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), which prohibits a government agency from implementing a land use regulation in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates that the imposition of that person, assembly, or institution is both:

   a) In furtherance of a compelling governmental interest.

   b) The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest. (42 U.S.C. § 2000cc.)

5) Provides that 4) applies in any case in which:

   a) The substantial burden is imposed in a program or activity that receives federal financial assistance, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.

b) The substantial burden affects, or removal of that financial burden would affect, commerce with foreign nations, among the several states, or with Indian tribes, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.

c) The substantial burden is imposed in the implementation of a land use regulation or system of land use regulations, under which a government makes, or has in place formal or informal procedures or practices that permit the government to make, individualized assessments of the proposed uses for the property involved. (42 U.S.C. § 2000cc.)

Existing state law:

1) Gives a California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission certain rights with respect to land use. (E.g., Government (Gov.) Code, §§ 65902, 65351, 65352, 65352.3, 65562.5.)

2) Prohibits a public agency, or a private property using or operating public property under a public license, permit, lease, or contract made on or after July 1, 1977, from interfering with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion as provided in the United States Constitution and the California Constitution, or from causing severe or irreparable damage to any Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property, except on a clear and convincing showing that the public and necessity so require. (Public (Pub.) Resources Code, § 5097.9.)

3) Provides that 2) shall not be construed to limit the requirements of the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) and does not apply to the public property of all cities, counties, and city and county located within the limits of the city, county, and city and county, except for all parklands in excess of 100 acres. (Pub. Resources Code, § 5097.9.)

4) Establishes the Native American Heritage Commission (Commission) within the state government. (Pub. Resources Code, § 5097.91.)

5) Establishes the powers and obligations of the Commission, which include:

a) Identifying and cataloguing places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans, and known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private lands.

b) Making places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans, and known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private lands.

c) Bringing an action to prevent severe and irreparable damage, or assure appropriate access for Native Americans, to a Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property, as specified.

d) Assisting Native Americans in obtaining appropriate access to sacred places that are located on public lands for ceremonial or spiritual activities. (Pub. Resources Code, § 5097.94.)

6) Requires every state and local agency to cooperate with the Commission in carrying out its duties, as specified. (Pub. Resources Code, § 5097.95.)

7) Permits the Commission, in the event that any Native American organization, tribe, group, or individual advises the Commission that a proposed action by a public agency may cause severe or irreparable damage to a Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property, or may bar appropriate access thereto by Native Americans, to conduct an investigation into the effect of the proposed action and, if the Commission finds that the proposed action would result in such damage or interference, to recommend mitigation measures to the agency; if the agency fails to accept the mitigation action, the Commission may ask the Attorney General to take appropriate legal action. (Pub. Resources Code, § 5097.97.)

8) Provides, within CEQA, that California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area may have expertise concerning their tribal cultural resources, and requires the lead agency, prior to the release of a declaration or environmental impact report, to begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if both of the following conditions are met:

a) The California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe.

b) The California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification and requests the consultation. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.3.1.)

This bill:

1) Establishes the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026 (the Act).

2) Makes findings and declarations relating to the long history of Native Nations within California, the history of government policies in California intended to exterminate or culturally erase Indigenous groups, including through the suppression of religious and spiritual practices, and the lack of state laws protecting Indigenous religious freedom.

3) Exempts, from the disclosure requirements of the CPRA, information identifying sacred sites, cultural landscapes, or religious practices of California Native American tribes.

4) Defines the following relevant terms:

   a) "California Indian" means a Native American who is a member or citizen of a California Native American tribe.

   b) "California Native American tribe" means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

   c) "Consultation" has the same meaning as in CEQA.

   d) "Cultural landscape" means a geographical area on state lands that includes cultural and natural resources associated with the spiritual and cultural practices of a California Native American tribe.

   e) "Exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices" means any tribal practice undertaken as part of California Indian religious, spiritual, or sacred observance, whether or not compelled by, or central to, a system of religious beliefs, as specified.

   f) "Governmental agency" means any state agency, department, board, or commission.

   g) "Least restrictive means" shall be interpreted consistent with strict judicial scrutiny jurisprudence of California.

h) "Sacred site" means any specific location, landscape, landform, waterbody, or area on state lands that is both (1) historically, culturally, or spiritually significant to a California Indian or tribe; and used, or has historically been used, for religious, ceremonial, or cultural purposes.

i) "State lands" means lands owned by the state or any state agency, excluding lands owned by, or under the jurisdiction of, any city, county, or district; but does not include private lands or lands used for public infrastructure or services, or authorized for private use or development.

j) "Substantial burden" mans any government action or policy that occurs on or after January 1, 2027, excluding routine administrative procedures, minor restrictions, or actions that do not materially prevent or significantly interfere with a California Indian or tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices, that does any of the following:

   i) Significantly restricts, denies, or unreasonably interferes with gathering or collecting traditional foods and plants used in ceremonies, including funerals, feasts, and celebrations on state lands.

   ii) Denies or unreasonably restricts access to sacred sites, ceremonial grounds, or other locations of religious or spiritual significance on state lands.

   iii) Destroys, desecrates, materially alters, or otherwise interferes with sacred sites, cultural landscapes, or ceremonial items on state lands in a manner that prevents or substantially impedes the practice of sincerely held religious or spiritual beliefs.

   iv) Restricts items of cultural, sacred, or religious significance, including, but not limited to, regalia, headdresses, eagle feathers, traditional medicines, gourd rattles, or other ceremonial items, when entering state government buildings; these items shall be permitted and, whenever possible, may be inspected only by hand or through other nontechnological means, and shall not be inspected by technological screening. At the request of a California Indian visitor to the State Capitol Building, the State Capitol Building Annex, or the State Capitol O Street Building, any item, including cultural or religious artifacts, that cannot be admitted into a secure facility for security reasons shall be stored and held for the convenience of the visitor until it can be collected.

5) Provides that a governmental agency shall not substantially burden a California Indian or California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands, except as necessary to protect public safety and security, including their access to, and use of, sacred sites or objects, and their ability to perform religious ceremonies and rites, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the governmental agency demonstrates that the application of the burden is (1) in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest, and (2) the least restrictive means of furthering that interest.

6) Provides that a California Indian or tribe shall have standing and may assert a violation of 5) as a claim or defense in any judicial or administrative proceeding, and may obtain declaratory or injunctive relief.

7) Provides that a prevailing party asserting a claim under the Act is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and any other equitable remedies determined by the court.

8) Requires a governmental agency to allow California Indians access to sacred sites on state lands for Native American religious, ceremonial, or cultural activities, except where public safety or resource protection makes access impossible.

9) Requires, consistent with Articles 11, 12, 25, and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), a governmental agency to seek and document free, prior, and informed consent of any affected tribe before undertaking any project action on state lands that may pose a risk to sacred sites of which the agency has actual knowledge or has been formally notified that may result in any of the following:

   a) Physical destruction or alteration of a sacred site.

   b) Loss of access, privacy, or quiet use.

   c) Long-term environmental degradation affecting religious and spiritual practices.

10) Requires the affirmative consent required under 9) to be in writing from the governing body of the affected tribe, subject to the following:

   a) If a tribe does not respond within a reasonable timeframe designated in the request, then the governmental agency may interpret the lack of response as a grant of request.

b) If a tribe responds to a request for consent by objecting to the undertaking, the governmental agency may request consultation with the tribe to see if issues raised by the tribe can be addressed.

11) Provides that information identifying sacred sites, cultural landscapes, or religious practices obtained by a governmental agency for the purposes of the Act shall be confidential and exempt from public records laws, including the CPRA.

12) Requires the Department of General Services (DGS), in coordination with the Capitol Protective Section, to the greatest extent possible, to uphold the religious freedom, ceremonial practices, sacred sites, cultural patrimony, and cultural landscapes of tribes when accessing the State Capitol Building Annex and grounds.

13) Requires the Capitol Protective Section, to the greatest extent possible, to avoid undue harm when handling tribal instruments and regalia.

14) Provides that nothing in the Act shall be construed to limit or restrict the authority of the state or any state agency to enter into an agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or other arrangement with any tribe to allow access to any state lands for the purpose of conducting religious, cultural, or ceremonial practices.

15) Provides the following with respect to the Act:

a) The application of the Act is strictly limited to a governmental agency's management actions that involve only state lands, regardless of whether this limitation is specified in any provision in the Act.

b) The Act has no application to any actions or direct or indirect effects arising out of, pertaining to, or relating to, lands that are not state lands.

c) To the extent there is a conflict between these provisions and any other provision of the Act, these provisions shall control.

16) Provides that the Act shall become operative on January 1, 2028.

17) Includes a severability clause.

Comments

California has the highest population of Native Americans in the United States. California's over 100 Native Nations are an essential part of California, each with

their own religions, spiritual traditions, and ceremonies that predate statehood. Unfortunately, colonization and California's early policies toward Native Americans disrupted centuries-old religious practices for many California Native American tribes. Many sacred sites and other locations of religious significance are located on what is now state-owned lands, and current law does not reliably protect California Native American tribes' ability to practice their spiritual and cultural practices free from state interference.

This bill establishes the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026 to ensure that California Native Americans have access to traditional sacred sites and are not unduly denied the right to exercise their religious beliefs and engage in spiritual practices on state public lands. This bill specifically prohibits state agencies from substantially burdening California Native American tribal religious practices, as defined, on state lands, except as necessary to protect public safety and security, unless the burden is the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling state interest, also known as the "strict scrutiny" standard. This bill also requires a state agency to seek free, prior, and informed consent from any California Native American tribe whose sacred sites will be affected by an agency's project on state lands, provided that the agency has actual knowledge of the site. This bill's provisions will become operative on January 1, 2028.

From a constitutional standpoint, it appears that this bill is within the state's authority to regulate relations with Indian tribes consistent with federal guidance. Opponents of this bill, however, are concerned that the bill's provisions could harm the ability to deliver water throughout the state.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal effect is as follows:

> Ongoing workload costs, potentially in the millions of dollars annually, across state agencies with jurisdiction over state public lands, including the Department of Parks and Recreation, State Lands Commission, Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Caltrans, and the University of California and California State University systems, to conduct expanded tribal consultation, seek and document written consent where required, screen records for new Public Records Act exemption findings, and develop implementation procedures. (General Fund and various special funds.)
>
> Major cost pressure on the courts to adjudicate additional filings. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload,

increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts. The FY 2025–27 Budget provided $70 million General Fund to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Indigenous Justice (Source)
Building Healthy Communities – Kern
CA Native Organizing Network
California Consortium for Urban Health
Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield
Chalon Indian Nation of California
Coalition of California State
County Supervisor Joe Baca, San Bernardino 5th District
Davis Joint Unified School District
East Valley Water District
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley
International Indian Treaty Council
Intertribal Friendship House
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation
Kno'Qoti Native Wellness, Inc.
Native American Health Center
Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.
Sacred Placed Institute for Indigenous Peoples
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
So'oh-Shinálí Sister Project
Southern Hill Nisenan Band dba Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam
Teamsters Local 1932
Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, Native Justice Team
Wilton Rancheria
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation
Wilton Rancheria
Five individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Agricultural Council of California
Association of California Water Agencies
California Chamber of Commerce

California Municipal Utilities Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Corona
El Dorado Immigration District
League of California Cities
Northern California Water Association
Regional Water Authority
Solano County Water Agency
Valley Ag Water Coalition
Water Blueprint for San Joaquin Valley Advocacy Fund
Western Growers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to Indigenous Justice:

AB 1881 strengthens protections for Tribes' religious and spiritual practices by ensuring that the state cannot interfere with their ability to practice their traditions. This bill recognizes tribes' deep connections to the land and natural resources, which are central to tribal identity and community, and affirms that these connections are inseparable from their spiritual and religious practices.

These protections must include the ability of tribal members to access their sacred sites without unnecessary barriers. These places are not simply historic locations, but living spaces where prayer, teaching, and responsibilities to the land continue every day. When access is restricted, it disrupts the continuation of these practices and harms the cultural and spiritual wellbeing of tribal communities.

Equally important is the freedom to gather the traditional materials needed for ceremonies. Many require certain plants, foods, water sources, and other natural elements that cannot simply be replaced or collected elsewhere. Protecting the right to gather these materials freely is essential to keeping these traditions alive.

AB 1881 also affirms the right of tribal members to carry traditional instruments, regalia, and sacred items without being questioned or stopped. These items are part of spiritual practices, and the ability to transport them safely and without interference is an important component of religious freedom.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to a coalition of this bill's opponents:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides a framework for the assessment of environmental impacts from projects that require discretionary action and provides for public disclosure of those environmental impacts, including proposed mitigation measures and project alternatives as part of the overall project analysis. Lead agencies must follow a formal process for early government-to-government consultation with California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project as part of the environmental review process under CEQA.

This bill would create a duplicative path for tribal consultation outside of the CEQA process and set standards that could result in projects not moving forward. Such provisions like requiring a government agency to "seek and document free, prior, and informed consent from an affected tribe for any project" could drastically constrain projects, including those necessary to modernize water infrastructure in the face of a changing climate. This shift from consultation to mandating consent marks a fundamental change in California land use law and could effectively grant a single tribe the power to halt or indefinitely delay any project—including projects that have already undergone extensive environmental review and received all other required approvals.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
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****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1883
Author: Bryan (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 8-1, 6/29/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 7/1/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 52-12, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Workplace surveillance tools

SOURCE: California Federation of Labor Unions

DIGEST: This bill regulates the use of specified workplace surveillance tools.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 apply the provisions to employees, as defined, rather than "workers," add and revise various definitions, and make various technical and conforming changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, pursuant to the California Constitution, that all people have inalienable rights, including the right to pursue and obtain privacy. (California Constitution (Cal. Const.), art. I, § 1.)

2) Establishes the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict the sale of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.100 et seq.)

3) Requires a business that collects a consumer's personal information to, at or before the point of collection, inform consumers of the categories of personal information to be collected and the purposes for which the categories of personal information are collected or used. (Civ. Code § 1798.100(a).)

4) Grants a consumer the right to request that a business that collects personal information about the consumer disclose to the consumer the following:
   a) the categories of personal information it has collected about that consumer;
   b) the categories of sources from which the personal information is collected;
   c) the business or commercial purpose for collecting, selling, or sharing personal information;
   d) the categories of third parties with whom the business shares personal information; and
   e) the specific pieces of personal information it has collected about that consumer. (Civ. Code § 1798.110.)

This bill:

1) Prohibits an employer from using a "workplace surveillance tool" that uses AI on employees for either of the following:
   a) Recognizing, or making inferences or predictions about, an individual's emotional state.
   b) Collecting neural data.

2) Defines "workplace surveillance tool" as any system, application, instrument, or device that collects or facilitates the collection of employee data, activities, communications, actions, biometrics, or behaviors by means other than direct observation by a person, including video or audio surveillance, continuous incremental time-tracking tools, geolocation, electromagnetic tracking, photoelectronic tracking, or that utilizes a photo-optical system or other means.

3) Provides for civil enforcement by the Labor Commissioner and public prosecutors. Such petitioners may bring a civil action seeking civil penalties, appropriate temporary or preliminary injunctive relief, including punitive damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs, in addition to other specified remedies.

4) Authorizes the Labor Commissioner, in addition to the above civil action, to further enforce this part, including by investigating an alleged violation, and ordering appropriate temporary relief to mitigate a violation or maintain the status quo pending the completion of a full investigation or hearing, including issuing a citation against an employer in violation, as specified.

5) Provides specified exemptions.

Background

Workplace surveillance technology has expanded dramatically in recent years, evolving from basic security cameras and badge access systems to sophisticated digital monitoring tools that track virtually every aspect of employee activity. These tools may provide benefits to employers in the form of increased productivity and security. However, they raise serious concerns about their impact on privacy and worker organizing; the psychological effects on workers; and when decisions are based on automated performance metrics, issues of algorithmic bias and unfairness.

This bill regulates employers use of "workplace surveillance tools," specified tools that collect or facilitate the collection of employee data, activities, communications, actions, biometrics, or behaviors by means other than direct observation by a person. This includes video or audio surveillance, continuous incremental time-tracking tools, and geolocation. Employers are prohibited from using a workplace surveillance tool that uses AI on employees for analyzing emotional state or collecting neural data.

This bill is sponsored by the California Federation of Labor Unions. It is supported by a large coalition of labor organizations and advocacy groups, including the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. It is opposed by a coalition of governmental associations and industry groups, including the League of California Cities. For a more thorough discussion of this bill, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Comments

According to the author:

> Workplace surveillance has evolved into highly invasive systems that track worker movements and collect massive amounts of data. Current laws fail to protect workers from these practices. AB 1883 will prohibit the use of invasive surveillance systems in the workplace, systems that pose profound risks not just to employee privacy but also to unaccountable discrimination. It also prohibits the use of surveillance tools to infer protected and personal information about workers, including immigration and health status, and the likelihood of unionizing or speaking up against workplace violations.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Estimated $2.6 million in FY 2026-27, $2.5 million annually thereafter to the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement within the Department of Industrial Relations. The Labor Commission, as chief of the DLSE, enforces wage laws and retaliation laws whereas this bill will require regulating employer conduct. (Labor Enforcement and Compliance Fund)

Potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate new penalties depending on the numbers of employers charged and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Likely minor, if any, costs to state entities found using workplace surveillance tools for prohibited purposes. (Special funds, General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO (source)
Alameda Labor Council
American Federation of Musicians, Local 7
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) California
California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)
California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union

California Conference of Machinists
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Faculty Association
California Federation of Teachers AFL-CIO
California Nurses Association
California Professional Firefighters
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
California School Employees Association
California State Legislative Board of the Smart - Transportation Division
California State University Employees Union, SEIU Local 2579
California Teachers Association
Center on Policy Initiatives
Central Coast Labor Council
Central Labor Council, Fresno-Madera-Tulare-kings Counties, AFL-CIO
Communications Workers of America, District 9
Engineers and Scientists of California, IFPTE Local 20, AFL-CIO
Inland Empire Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Kapor Center Advocacy
North Bay Labor Council
North Valley Labor Federation
Oakland Privacy
Omidyar Network
Orange County Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
San Mateo County Central Labor Council
Service Employees International Union California
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, AFL-CIO
Teamsters California
TechEquity Collaborative
Unite Here, AFL-CIO
Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
What We Will

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

American Petroleum and Convenience Store Association
Associated General Contractors of California
Associated General Contractors San Diego
Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD)
Association of California School Administrators
Building Owners and Managers Association of California

California Airports Council
California Apartment Association
California Assisted Living Association
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA)
California Association of Recreation & Park Districts
California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO)
California Association of Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Attractions and Parks Association
California Automatic Vendors Council
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Craft Brewers Association
California Distributors Association
California Grocers Association
California Hospital Association
California Landscape Contractors Association
California League of Food Producers
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
California Moving and Storage Association
California Restaurant Association
California Retailers Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
California Transit Association
California's Credit Unions
Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC)
County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC)
County of Kern
County of Riverside
Family Business Association of California
Insights Association
League of California Cities
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Independent Property Owners
National Automatic Merchandising Association
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM)
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

Security Industry Association
Self Storage Association
Shrm California
Southwest California Legislative Council
Technet
The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Tri County Chamber Alliance
Urban Counties of California (UCC)
Western Growers Association
Wine Institute

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A large coalition of labor organizations and advocacy groups, including the California Teachers Association, writes:

Employers have used surveillance to monitor, manage, and control workers for decades. However, today's employers now have access to a plethora of AI enabled surveillance tools capable of analyzing a worker's gait, neural activity, emotional state, and face. AI enabled surveillance differs from traditional video and audio monitoring in several ways. For one, these tools strip workers of their biometric data, essentially committing a full-scale invasion of workers' physical, mental, and emotional space at all hours of the day. Rather than requiring a human to monitor live surveillance feeds, today's tools utilize active AI monitoring that are capable of monitoring workers with zero interruptions. Heart rate, perspiration, facial expressions, and eye movements are tracked and used as data points to target "unproductive" workers and to "minimize risk" in the workplace.

AI tools rely on black-box algorithms to surveil workers. Data from emotion recognition, neural sensors, and facial and gait sensors are not just observations, but analysis of the data collected. Not only is that data potentially unreliable, but it can have bias built in, further exacerbating discrimination and inequities. For example, tools that utilize emotion recognition technology may very well fail to understand cultural nuances of expression and may be trained on biased information that inaccurately tags certain forms of speech as "aggressive" or "inappropriate." Similarly, facial recognition has a long history of failing to accurately recognize people of color, thus automating discrimination on a massive scale.

In order to protect workers from unregulated forms of military grade surveillance technology, AB 1883 prohibits employers from deploying gait, emotional, and neural recognition technologies in the workplace. AB 1883 also sets guardrails on the use of facial recognition technology by prohibiting employers from using the

technology to make inferences to fire, discipline, or deactivate a worker. AB 1883 also prohibits employers from using any surveillance tool to infer personal and sensitive information of a worker such as their immigration status, gender identity, or sexual orientation and if a worker is exercising their protected rights. Lastly, the bill prohibits the use of any AI tool that prevents compliance with or violates any federal, state, or local labor, occupational health and safety, employment, or civil rights laws or regulations.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A large coalition of associations representing public employers, including the California State Association of Counties, writes:

We have fundamental concerns with this and other bills that aim to restrict how public agencies can use the tools defined as "workplace surveillance tools," which we believe are essential and, in many cases, routine tools used for security.

- We oppose any legislation that will compromise health, safety, and security for our employees, the public we serve, and our officials.
- We oppose any legislation that compromises our ability to conduct investigations into fraud, waste, or abuse.
- We do not believe it is appropriate to regulate tools used for security and basic operations in response to private sector labor concerns. State law has protected the right of public employees to bargain and most public employees have a property interest in their position that is protected by due process.

AB 1883 would impose several rules on how public agencies may use surveillance tools – a term that is vast in its application, including video cameras, ID badge or key fob access, digital workplace messaging collaboration platforms (e.g. Microsoft Teams or Slack), and a wide array of tools used to keep workplaces safe, conduct essential government services, and protect against abuse, fraud, and waste of public resources.

We understand the reasonable concerns one could have about the rapid integration of surveillance tools into every aspect of daily life, particularly as new technologies emerge. However, we are concerned that this bill and others aimed at limiting workplace technology are too broad, too expensive, and too dangerous for public agencies and those we serve.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 52-12, 5/27/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Ávila Farías, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Flora, Gipson, Hoover, Lackey, Pacheco, Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Ta, Valencia

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 12:58:16

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1887
Author: Zbur (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Prescription drug coverage for rare diseases

SOURCE: California Chronic Care Coalition

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires prior authorization for prescription drugs prescribed for the treatment of a rare disease to be completed within 30 days of the initial request by a provider if the drug is the only U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved treatment for the rare disease; and (2) requires approval of the prescription if the 30-day timeline is not met due to an unresolved decision or dispute.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 clarify that this bill does not affect the timelines required for prescription drug prior authorization in current law and add the appropriate cross-references.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to regulate health plans under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to regulate health and other insurance. [Health & Safety Code (HSC) §1340, et seq. and Insurance Code (INS) §106, et seq.]

2) Requires health plans and insurers that perform utilization review (UR) or utilization management (UM) functions, or who delegate these functions to other contracting providers, to make decisions to approve, modify, or deny, a health service in a timely fashion appropriate for the enrollee's/insured's condition, as specified. [HSC §1367.01 and INS §10123.135]

3) Requires DMHC and CDI to require health plans and insurers to establish and maintain a prior authorization application programming interface for enrollees/insureds and contracted providers. [HSC §1374.196 and INS §10133.12]

4) Requires a health plan or insurer to accept only a standardized prior authorization form developed by DMHC and CDI, or an electronic prior authorization process when requiring prior authorization for prescription drugs. [HSC §1367.241 and INS §10123.201]

5) Requires a prior authorization exception to be deemed granted if a health plan or insurer fails to respond, within 72 hours upon the receipt of a completed form, or within 24 hours if exigent circumstances exist. Defines "exigent circumstances" as when an enrollee/insured is suffering from a health condition that may seriously jeopardize their life, health, or ability to regain maximum function, or when an enrollee/insured is undergoing a current course of treatment using a nonformulary drug. [HSC §1367.241 and INS §10123.191]

6) Excludes, from health plan or insurer prior authorization requirements, covered health care services that have been approved by the plan/insurer 90% or more times, as determined by DMHC or CDI after reporting and evaluation. Excludes specified services, including outpatient drugs on tier three or tier four of a formulary. Sunsets on January 1, 2034. [HSC §1367.025 and INS §10133.52]

This bill:

1) Defines "rare disease" as a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 people in the U.S.

2) Requires a health plan or insurer to complete prior authorization within 30 days upon the initial request for a prescription approved by the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) for the treatment of a rare disease if the drug is prescribed by a specialist with expertise in the condition or disease being treated, the specialist has determined the drug is medically necessary, and the drug is the only FDA-approved treatment for the rare disease.

3) Requires the prior authorization to be immediately approved if, at the end of the 30-day period, a decision to approve or deny the prior authorization has not been made or a dispute between the plan and provider or enrollee is ongoing.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> Families living with rare diseases in California often spend years searching for a diagnosis and an effective treatment, only to be forced to "fail first" on less appropriate therapies or wait weeks or months for prior authorization from their health plan before they can start the one FDA-approved drug that can slow or stop their condition. These insurer-imposed delays are unnecessary when a specialist has prescribed an FDA approved therapy based on medical necessity, and in some cases, they are reckless and life threatening. This bill aims to address this by accelerating prior authorization for rare disease treatments when prescribed by an appropriate specialist based on medical necessity. California is a global leader in rare disease research and innovation; this bill ensures that the people who rely on these breakthroughs can access them without bureaucratic obstacles, improving health outcomes and quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents.

Rare diseases and treatment. According to the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), and as defined in the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, rare diseases are those that affect fewer than 200,000 people in the U.S. There are over 7,000 rare diseases, according to the California Center for Rare Diseases at UCLA, including diseases like cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, phenylketonuria, and sickle cell disease. According to the NHGRI, about 80% of rare diseases are genetic. Because many rare diseases are genetic, approximately 75% of rare diseases manifest during childhood, and 50% of patients with rare diseases are children, according to a 2025 review in *ACR Open Rheumatology*.

The Orphan Drug Act of 1983 created an orphan drug designation that offers financial incentives for pharmaceutical manufacturers to invest in research and development for rare diseases, which, by definition, have a small market.

According to a 2024 policy brief from the Congressional Research Service, since the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act, over 500 rare disease drugs have been approved. About 5% of rare diseases have an FDA-approved drug, according to a 2023 study in the *Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases*, and up to 15% have least one promising drug candidate in the pipeline for treatment, diagnosis, or prevention.

Prior authorization in California. Prior authorization is a form of UR or UM in which the payer grants permission for the use of the medication after the clinician prescribes it, before the patient can begin treatment. For prescription drugs, state-regulated health plans and insurers must use a standardized prior authorization form and decide requests within 72 hours (or 24 hours for urgent cases), or the request is automatically approved. If additional information is needed, the plan must notify the provider within those same timeframes or the request is deemed approved. Once the missing information is received, the 72- or 24-hour review period restarts. If no decision or request for more information is provided within the required timeframe, the prior authorization is approved for the full prescription, including refills. Denials must include notice to the provider and enrollee/insured of an external appeals process. Because rare disease drugs are specialty drugs, virtually all of them require prior authorization.

Exemption from SB 306. Concerns about prior authorization's effectiveness, administrative burden, and patient outcomes led the Legislature to pass SB 306 (Becker, Chapter 408, Statutes of 2025), which, beginning in 2028, eliminates prior authorization for services that receive approval at least 90% of the time, as determined by DMHC and CDI. Specialty outpatient drugs on Tier 4 of a drug formulary, like those for rare diseases, are exempt from the SB 306 process.

California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) analysis. Key findings include:

- *Coverage impacts and enrollees covered*. CHBRP estimates that 13.8 million Californians (36.2% of the state) have CDI- and DMHC-regulated insurance subject to this bill. Medi-Cal managed care plans are excluded from this bill.
- *Medical effectiveness.* CHBRP did not find any literature on the impacts of UM on the use of prescription drugs for rare diseases. However, there is some evidence that UM leads to delays in access to prescription drugs to treat non-rare diseases, causing delays in the initiation of prescription drug treatment ranging from an average of four to 44 days. Furthermore, there is some evidence from retrospective studies that UM for prescription drugs for non-rare diseases are related to unnecessary hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and increased morbidity resulting from delays in prescription drug

treatments. Lastly, CHBRP found conflicting evidence on the impact of UM on denials of prescription drug treatments for non-rare diseases.

- *Utilization*. CHBRP estimated that the removal of UM would result in 8,200 people starting an additional 17,000 new prescriptions for a medication to treat a rare disease within a plan benefit year, increasing utilization of small-molecule drugs by 4% for those drugs available at the pharmacy and by 8% for those administered by a physician. Utilization of biologics is estimated to increase by 2% for those available through the pharmacy and 2% for those administered by a physician.
- *Medi-Cal.* This bill does not apply to Medi-Cal plans.
- *Impact on premiums.* Eliminating an estimated 60-day delay for new rare disease prescriptions is estimated to increase total annual premiums by $148 million, with $96.1 million paid by employers and $51.7 million paid by enrollees/insureds. Average annual enrollee/insured premiums are estimated to increase by between $1.49 and $10.69, depending on the insurance market, with the largest increase in the individual market.
- *Impact on cost-sharing.* Because this bill is expected to provide two additional 30-day prescriptions per year for affected enrollees/insureds, cost-sharing for those taking those drugs will increase. The annual average cost-sharing for those with drugs subject to this bill is expected to increase by $900 to $1,200, depending on the insurance market, with the largest cost-sharing increases in the individual market.
- *Essential health benefits (EHBs).* Because this bill does not require coverage for any additional prescription drugs, it does not exceed the current definition of EHBs in California.
- *Public health.* CHBRP estimates no measurable population-level public health impacts of this bill, although there may be meaningful quality-of-life improvements for the individuals with rare diseases who would be able to access their treatments sooner, and for clinicians, patients, and families who would be able to avoid protracted prior authorization processes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, there are unknown and likely minor ongoing costs for DMHC and CDI for state administration, as well as unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially in the low millions, due to increases in CalPERS plan premiums.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Chronic Care Coalition (source)

Arginase 1 Deficiency Foundation
ALS Association
Alliance for Patient Access
Association for Creatine Deficiencies
Biocom California
Bleeding Disorders Council of California
Breathe California
Breathe Southern California
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Life Sciences Association
California Pharmacists Association
California Rheumatology Alliance
Cedars-Sinai
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Chronic Disease Coalition
CSNK2A1 Foundation
Cure SMA
Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc.
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
EB Research Partnership
Flok Health
Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California
Herrera & Company
Infusion Access Foundation
International Foundation for Autoimmune and Autoinflammatory Arthritis
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
Little Legs Big Heart Foundation
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Ataxia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National PKU Alliance
Neuropathy Action Foundation
Overcome Lupus
Project Alive
Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California
Rare & Ready Coalition
RareRising
The EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
TSC Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
California Association of Health Plans
California Chamber of Commerce

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The California Chronic Care Coalition (CCCC), the sponsors of this bill, share that many rare disease patients see an average of 17 providers over more than six years before receiving an accurate diagnosis, and the avoidable costs associated with those delays range from $86,000 to $517,000 per patient. The CCCC states that this bill stops prolonged review from standing between a patient and the treatment a specialist has already determined is medically necessary, and many other patient advocacy and disease research groups agree that this bill offers a targeted solution to protect access to rare disease therapies while allowing plans to apply UM controls in situations where true alternatives exist. Many groups share specific examples of difficulties accessing treatments. The Dravet Syndrome Foundation shares that access to the three approved medications for the disease is limited by prior authorization and step therapy requirements, which may result in increased seizure activity, emergency hospitalizations, and long-term impacts. The Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California shares that they have heard directly from families who have had to postpone or miss treatments while waiting for approvals—putting their health, mobility, and quality of life at risk. The ALS Association writes that many patients continue to face significant barriers to accessing the first FDA-approved treatment for a rare and particularly aggressive form of ALS, including prior authorization delays, repeated requests for additional documentation, coverage denials, and lengthy appeals processes. Provider groups state that patients face long diagnostic journeys and uncertainty, and additional administrative delays can lead to disease progression, avoidable complications, and interruptions in care. A provider from the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners states that it is frustrating to see pediatric patients go weeks without enzyme replacement infusions due to delayed prior authorization. Lastly, The Rare and Ready Coalition and Little Legs Big Heart Foundation supports the bill but also asks the Committee to consider an amendment removing prior authorization requirements for patients age 18 and under.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies (ACLHIC) and California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) oppose the $148 million projected increase in health insurance premiums, particularly given that health plans already cover these medications. They also oppose this bill's 30-day review period for prior authorization requests,

arguing that because prior authorization requests for rare disease treatments are typically used as a verification tool rather than a mechanism to deny care, the language around automatic approval should be removed to avoid setting a precedent of preferential treatment for one class of expensive drugs. CAHP/ACLHIC also point out that because this bill does not require a provider's request to be complete or to include all clinically necessary information before the clock begins, it may not hold all parties equally accountable for ensuring patients receive safe and appropriate care. The California Chamber of Commerce also opposes the bill due to the impacts on insurance premiums for employers and employees. They highlight that employer health care premiums are estimated to increase by over $96 million per year, and the largest increases will be seen in small-group (small businesses with fewer than 51 employees) and individual markets. These must also be viewed in the context of consistent increases year after year, partially due to benefit mandates. They share that the average premium for family coverage has increased 20% over the five years prior to the publication of the 2022 Kaiser Family Foundation Employer Health Benefits Survey.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Tangipa

Prepared by: Natalie Gehred / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 13:30:58

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1890
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D), et al.
Amended: 3/10/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: County of Napa: farmworker housing: funding

SOURCE: Napa County

DIGEST: This bill increases the amount of funding the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) awards to the Napa County Housing Authority's (NCHA) farmworker centers from $250,000 to $500,000, annually.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Napa County Farmworker Centers Account (NCFCA) to be administered by HCD through its Office of Migrant Services (OMS) and requires HCD to administer the program.

2) Provides that funds provided to NCHA are to assist in financing, maintenance, and operation of the Napa County farmworker centers for year-round use by migrant and nonmigrant farm labor employees.

3) Grants the NCHA continued ownership and operation of farmworker centers pursuant to the local ordinances, regulations, or bylaws currently applicable.

4) Awards up to $250,000 in matching funds to the NCHA upon demonstration that the NCHA is capable of continuing to effectively serve the housing needs of Napa's farmworkers.

5) Requires that the NCHA provide equal or greater funds from local sources to support financing, maintenance, and operations of housing in order to be eligible for NCFCA funding.

6) Requires the NCHA to demonstrate its capability of ensuring the fiscal integrity of the farmworker centers and maintaining the projects in a decent, safe, and sanitary manner for at least 25 years.

7) Allows year-round use of farmworker centers to be interrupted, if necessary, in order to perform maintenance purposes, to allow new migrant farmworkers to obtain housing, or for any other purpose the NCHA deems necessary.

8) Authorizes Napa County to form a county service area fund for the construction and maintenance of farmworker housing centers.

9) Levies $10 annually per planted vineyard acre on the agricultural industry to support the three Napa farmworker centers.

10) Assists agricultural communities with the development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and operation of migrant farm labor centers through HCD's OMS Centers Program.

11) Establishes the Joe Serna, Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program (Serna Program) at HCD to fund the new construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of housing for farmworkers.

This bill:

1) Increases the amount of funding HCD awards to NCHA farmworker centers from $250,000 to $500,000, annually.

2) Provides that funding for this program and policy changes made in this bill is contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature in the Budget.

3) Provides that funding provided to NCHA shall not be used to house H-2A workers, and any employer that utilizes Napa County farmworker centers to house H-2A workers is required to reimburse the state for the cost.

Comments

1) *Author's statement. "*Farmworkers work in the hardest jobs in Napa County's agricultural economy and play a vital role in its success. But many face limited access to affordable housing. Napa County's farmworker housing centers are a model for partnerships between employers, government and workers, with subsidies provided by the county and self-assessments on farmers. They provide an important resource by offering low-cost housing and support services for agricultural workers in a region with severe housing shortages. AB 1890 builds on the framework established under AB 317 by extending and increasing the state's authorized matching funds, addressing rising operating costs and supporting the continued operation of these centers. While the centers are located in Napa County, the agricultural workforce they serve contributes to an industry that is critical to the regional and statewide economy. By sustaining stable housing for farmworkers, AB 1890 helps strengthen California's agricultural workforce and support the broader food production system."

2) *Napa Farmworker Housing*. Napa County's economy is based largely on its $1 billion agriculture industry, the value of which arises almost exclusively from its wine grape crops. This creates a massive demand for farmworkers in the county, and a related need for housing to support these migrant workers. Farmworkers frequently face significant barriers to accessing stable and affordable housing, particularly in regions like Napa County, where housing costs are high and supply is limited.

   To address the housing needs of the farmworker workforce, Napa County operates farmworker housing centers that provide dormitory style housing to migrant farmworkers. Napa County's farmworker centers are different from the other farmworker centers in California. HCD operates the Office of Migrant Services (OMS) program, which manages state-owned farm worker housing centers that provide family-style units that are open 270 days each year. In comparison, Napa County's centers are dorm-style operations that cater to single male residents. Napa County operates three farmworker centers, totaling 180 beds, serving an average of 400 farmworkers during the eleven months of the year that each is open. Housing consists of dorm-style accommodations with two renters per room, and lodgers receive food, hot showers, laundry

facilities, a library, and internet access on-site. The center also provides opportunities to participate in community gardens, health screenings, and literacy programs. Farmworkers tend to have lower incomes, higher risk of living in poverty, and limited access to safe, healthy, and affordable housing choices.

In 2001, AB 1550 (Wiggins, Chapter 340) authorized Napa County to form a county service area (CSA) to raise funding for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, leasing, or maintaining farmworker housing. The Napa County Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted an ordinance in 2002 to create CSA No. 4, and, with the approval of the affected property owners, levied a $10 assessment per acre of planted vineyard. AB 1550 limited the original assessment levied by CSA No. 4 to a five-year period but authorized the BOS to seek an extension of the assessment every five years thereafter. In 2017, SB 240 (Dodd, Chapter 72), increased the assessment to $15 per acre. This private assessment, now at $14 per acre, generates approximately $650,000 in annual revenue, representing about 30% of the operating costs of the housing centers. The assessment has been reauthorized by the property owners every five years since then.

In 2017, AB 317 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 469) authorized $200,000 in state General Funds to support the Napa County farmworker centers. This funding will expire in the fiscal year 2028-29. At the time, the author argued that inflation had increased the farmworker centers' annual operating expenses, and while the County of Napa and its partners have been fiscally responsible in building reserves, increasing costs had eroded this source. The additional funding provided by AB 317 was intended to prevent the closure of the centers at the time, which the county was predicting would happen by 2018 when the centers would run out of reserves. HCD operates all other OMS centers. AB 317 essentially directed funds that would go toward state-operated OMS centers in Napa to support the existing farmworker centers upon demonstration that the NCHA is capable of continuing to effectively serve the housing needs of migrant or other farmworkers. The NCHA must provide equal or greater funds from local sources.

This bill increases the amount that the state provides to the Napa County farm centers from $250,000 to $500,000 annually. The author is also requesting an allocation in the budget to fund the centers.

3) *H-2A Visa Program.* The H-2A Visa program is a federal program that allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs.

Petitioners requesting to utilize this program must demonstrate that there are not enough U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available to do the temporary work. They must also show that employing H-2A workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers. Employers must provide clean and safe housing to H-2A workers at no charge to the employee. Employees are responsible for their food costs, but employers must provide a place for workers to prepare their meals. An employer must arrange for a worker's transportation from the originating country to the place of employment or reimburse the worker for transportation costs.

Since its introduction in 1986, the H-2A program has grown steadily in size. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2000, there were approximately 30,000 visa-holders, in 2010 there were approximately 55,000, and in 2016 there were over 134,000 (including 11,000 in California). This represents about 4-7% of farmworkers nationwide, and 2-3% in California. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this increase is because "most crop workers are unauthorized, and farmers are turning to H-2A guestworkers as unauthorized migration from Mexico to the United States slows, to replace current workers who leave agriculture to find non-farm jobs."

The H-2A program is not uncontroversial. Farmers convey that the additional cost of providing housing and transportation, without the ability to offset those costs through lower wages, limit their use of the program. However, they cite its practical necessity in the face of a diminishing labor supply and the inability of Congress to pass immigration reform that meets the well-documented needs of the nation's food producers. Opponents point to the fact that H-2A visa ties the worker to the employer. They cite power imbalance as enabling substantial abuses, including lack of access to legal resources, wage theft, poor housing, denial of medical benefits for on-the-job injuries, and withholding of documents.

AB 1783 (Rivas, Chapter 866, Statutes of 2019) prohibited state housing funds from being utilized for constructing housing for H-2A workers, including the following programs: Community Service Block Grants, Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund, Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program, and other programs for migratory workers, but does not include any allocation of federal or state low-income housing tax credits.

According to the sponsor of this bill, Napa County farmworker centers do not house H-2A workers. Workers are not referred to the centers by their employers, but rather learn about the center through outreach made by the Napa Housing Authority. Consistent with AB 1783, this bill prohibits centers from providing housing to H-2A workers, and if they do, employers must reimburse the state for the cost of the housing.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing annual local assistance costs of up to $250,000, beginning in 2027-28, to provide additional matching funds to the NCHA for its farmworker centers. (General Fund)

- HCD indicates that it would not incur any additional workload-related costs to administer the program as a result of this bill. (General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Napa County (source)
City of Napa
County of Napa
Family Winemakers of California
Napa Chamber of Commerce
Napa County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Napa Valley Vintners
Providence
Rios Farming Co.
The Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation
Unidosus
Upvalley Family Centers of Napa County

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee,

Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/15/26 13:29:10

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1891
Author: Connolly (D), et al.
Amended: 6/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Forestry: Beneficial Fire Capacity Program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department) to, on an annual basis, use no less than 10% of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) moneys appropriated to them to expand training, organizational capacity, and support for community-led beneficial fire programs, and would give priority to funding for proposals that involve California Native American tribes or indigenous-led organizations. Additionally, the Department is required to award 25% of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation to California Native American tribes or tribally- or indigenous-led organizations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) §4477:
   a) Requires the State Fire Marshal (SFM), with the involvement of the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee, to develop a curriculum for, or amend into an existing curriculum, a certification program

for burn bosses, who possess authority to engage in a prescribed burning operation and to enter into the necessary contracts related to a prescribed burning operation. The curriculum shall provide for the initial certification as well as the continuing education of burn bosses.

b) Requires the Department to develop a training program for prescribed fire users to certify professionals in any agency or organization as burn bosses. Requires the Department to certify these individuals to a common standard.

c) Requires the SFM to post and update on its internet website the number of burn bosses with an active burn boss certification.

2) Defines "burn boss" as a person certified pursuant to PRC §4477 to conduct prescribed burning operations and to enter into contracts related to prescribed burning operations; or, a person qualified for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group position title of "Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1" or "Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2." (PRC §4500(a))

3) Establishes the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program to increase the pace and scale of the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning and to reduce barriers for conducting prescribed fires and cultural burning. (PRC 4§500 (b))

4) Establishes the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (Fund) to support coverage for losses from prescribed fires and cultural burning by nonpublic entities, such as cultural fire practitioners, private landowners, and nongovernmental entities. (PRC §4500 (c)(1))

5) Requires $165 million to be appropriated from GGRF in the annual Budget Act each year through the 2023–24 fiscal year to the Department for healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects that improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by uncontrolled wildfires.

6) Requires $35 million to be appropriated from GGRF in the annual Budget Act each year through the 2023–24 fiscal year to the Department to complete prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendations of the Forest Carbon Plan, including the operation of year-round prescribed fire crews and implementation of a research and monitoring program for climate change adaptation. (Sec. 45 of SB 901 (Dodd), Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018)

7) Requires the annual proceeds of the GGRF to be continuously appropriated, until FY 2028-29, to the Department as follows: $200 million for healthy forest and fire prevention programs, and $35 million for the completion of prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan,

including the operation of year-round prescribed fire crews and implementation of a research and monitoring program for climate adaptation. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §39719 (b)(4))

8) Requires, after specified amounts are fully allocated, as determined by the Department of Finance, moneys in GGRF to be continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal year, so that $200 million goes to the Department as follows: 82.5% for healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects that improve forest health and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases caused by uncontrolled wildfires, and 17.5% for the completion of prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan, including the operation of year-round prescribed fire crews and implementation of a research and monitoring program for climate adaptation. (HSC §37919.4 (c)(1)(E))

This bill:

1) Makes codified legislative findings and declarations regarding:
   a) The use of beneficial fire for reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and greenhouse gas emissions, and
   b) The critical need for investment in training, organizational capacity, and project implementation, regardless of the immediate quantification of greenhouse gas emissions.
2) Requires that the Department, on an annual basis, use not less than 10% of any funding appropriated to the Department for local assistance and other grant programs where prescribed fire is an eligible activity, to expand training, organizational capacity, and support for community led beneficial fire programs, as specified.
   a) Of this 10%, not less than 25% allocated funds shall be awarded to California Native American tribes or tribally led or indigenous-led organizations.
   b) Specifies that the Department may award less than the 10% only in circumstances where the total funding requested by qualified applicants does not reach the minimum allocation.
   c) Requires that the Department deliver the funding through grants, programs, and other mechanisms including direct awards, block grants, and subawards.
3) Specifies the activities that qualify as part of the 10% allocation are:
   a) Funding to support and implement community-led beneficial fire programs, including training, and building and maintaining capacity. The Department

shall prioritize organizations with demonstrated effectiveness developing or leading beneficial fire programs.

b) Funding to implement beneficial fire projects or projects involving beneficial fire capacity building, research, innovation, or training.

4) Require the Department collaborate with other relevant state agencies, beneficial fire practitioners, and organizations currently engaged in beneficial fire programs in the administration of the funding.

5) Requires the Department, to the extent feasible under grants, programs, and other mechanisms, to

a) Allow awarded funds to be used to pay California Native American tribes or tribally designated individuals for consultation or engagement on programs or projects.

b) Reduce application and reporting requirements.

c) Develop metrics for program success other than acres treated.

d) Use the maximum flexibility provided for by law to allow for longer grant or award terms.

6) Authorize the Department to prescribe rules, guidelines, procedures, or other guidance to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

7) Exempt such rules from the Administrative Procedures Act.

8) Make non-codified findings and declarations.

Prescribed burning. Prescribed burning is the controlled application of fire to the land to reduce wildfire hazards, clear downed trees, control plant diseases, improve rangeland and wildlife habitats, and restore natural ecosystems. Prescribed fires are typically conducted in compliance with a written prescribed fire plan that outlines the conditions necessary for the burn to be "within prescription." Recent research on California's 2020 wildfire season found prescribed fires decreased wildfire burn severity by 16% and led to a net reduction of 14% in smoke emissions.

California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire (March 2022) (Strategic Plan) estimates that between 10 and 30 million acres in California would benefit from some form of fuel reduction treatment and sets a target for deploying beneficial fire on 400,000 acres annually.

According to the Strategic Plan, approximately 125,000 to 150,000+ acres are treated with prescribed burning in California annually by state and federal agencies. According to the Wildfire Forest Resilience Task Force Dashboard , 188,000 acres were treated with beneficial burns in 2024. While this rate is

increasing to manage wildfire hazards, it remains far below the long-term goal of 400,000 acres annually and the roughly 4.5 million acres that burned annually before the year 1800.

Prescribed burns are safe. The US Forest Service reported in 2022 that 99.84% of prescribed burns operate as planned without incident.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

- The Department estimates ongoing costs of $354,000 in the first year, $392,000 in the second, and $371,000 annually thereafter (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF]) to implement the provisions of this bill.
- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimates ongoing costs of $391,000 annually (GGRF) to develop quantification and reporting materials specific to the new projects for agencies administering California Climate Investments (CCI) programs; conduct additional outreach in disadvantaged communities, including within lands under the control of federally recognized tribes, to inform community members about investment opportunities available through CCI; provide ongoing guidance, including quantification guidance and support; and assist with outreach and engagement, especially to tribes and indigenous-led organizations.
- By requiring the Department to use at least 10% of its funding appropriated for local assistance and other grant programs where prescribed or beneficial fire is an eligible activity to implement the Beneficial Fire Capacity Program, this bill would create ongoing cost pressures of an unknown amount on the department's funding allocation to the extent the proposed set-aside in the bill diverts resources away from projects that would otherwise have received funding from the department. According to the Department, its grant programs are consistently oversubscribed.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Karuk Tribe (co-sponsor)
The Watershed Research and Training Center (co-sponsor)
All Hands Ecology
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
American Rivers
Audobon California
Berkeley; City of
Biswell Forestry
Briceland Volunteer Fire Department
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Cattlemen's Association
California Environmental Voters
California Forward
California Forward (ca Fwd)
California Indian Environmental Alliance

California Native Plant Society
Californians for Western Wilderness
Calwild
Campfire Restoration Project
Camptonville Community Partnership
Cdp Rural Caucus
Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association
City of Sunnyvale
Colusa County Resource Conservation District
Community Environmental Council
Community Wildfire Planning Center
County of Yuba - Office of Emergency Services
Cross Contour LLC
Cultural Fire Management Council
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Ecoflight
El Dorado Amador Prescribed Fire Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Fall Creek Firewise
Fave Trainings
Feather River College
Filoli
Fire Resilience Institute
Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)
Firegeneration Collaborative
First Rain Land Stewardship Services
Forestscapes LLC
Forevergreen Forestry
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Lost Coast
Friends of the River
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Hamey Woods
Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
Humboldt Fire Resilience Institute
Hybrid Incident Support
Indigenous Stewardship Network
Klamath Forest Alliance
Mak-warép Ohlone Land Conservancy
Mattole Restoration Council
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Mount Hermon Northwest
Mount Madonna Center
Mt. Madonna Challenge
National Audubon Society
Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Nourishing Futures, 501 (C) (3)
Orange County Fire Authority
Orleans Volunteer Fire Department
Pacific Forest Trust
Plumas County Fire Safe Council
Plumas Underburn Cooperative
Prometheus Fire Consulting LLC
Rain
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Resource Renewal Institute
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Salmon River Restoration Council
San Benito Resource Conservation District
San Luis Obispo Prescribed Burn Association
Sandhills of Quail Hollow Firewise
Santa Clara County Firesafe Council
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council
Santa Rosa Junior College
Save Mount Diablo
Save the Redwoods League
Saving the Sea
Scott River Watershed Council
Semillas for Safe Soil
Sempervirens Fund
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Sonoma Land Trust
South Bay Prescribed Burn Association
South Yuba River Citizens League
Spye Conservation INC.
Storm King Mountain Technologies, INC.
Sustainable Tahoe
Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
The Adidam Holy Domains
The Climate Center
The Fire Restoration Group
The Hatchet Emergency Response INC.
The Lookout
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlands Conservancy
Transition Habitat Conservancy
Tribal Ecorestoration Alliance
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Trout Unlimited
Tuolumne Prescribed Burn Association
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Volcano Land Company
Wildlands Network
Wildlands Robotics
Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "AB 1891 sets aside 10% of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund allocated to [the Department] for wildfire resiliency and forest health to support beneficial fire, with 25% of that dedicated specifically to tribes and tribal organizations. Beneficial fire has been a proven practice utilized by California's first peoples for thousands of years. The evidence is clear, beneficial fire projects help our ecosystems foster biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, and preserve natural habitats and forests. It is time we expand these practices and give California another tool to help make our state more resilient to wildfires and natural disasters."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/15/26 15:46:30

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1896
Author: Mark González (D) and Rivas (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 7/1/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-21, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public employment: disqualifications

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill (1) disqualifies a person from public employment in California, including employment as a peace officer, if they were previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement; (2) requires a hiring agency considering a peace officer applicant to conduct a suitability review of that candidate based on standards developed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 08/21/26 require POST to adopt a definition of "suitability" based on recommendations from a newly established working group; specify that the signed declaration required to be submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) by a peace officer applicant should instead be submitted to the hiring

agency; require employment forms used by a state or local agency to require a person applying for employment to disclose whether the person has been employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor personally engaged in immigration enforcement; remove definitions and make technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) The California Values Act, generally prohibits California law enforcement agencies from using agency moneys or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes, as specified, from placing officers under the supervision of federal agencies for the purpose of immigration enforcement, and from cooperating in other specified ways with federal immigration authorities. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 7284.6, subd. (a).)

2) Provides that notwithstanding the above limitations, and in accordance with local laws and agency policies, California law enforcement agencies are not prohibited from conducting enforcement or investigative duties associated with a joint law enforcement task force, including the sharing of confidential information with other law enforcement agencies for purposes of task force investigations, so long as the following conditions are met:

   a) The primary purpose of the joint law enforcement task force is not immigration enforcement, as defined.

   b) The enforcement or investigative duties are primarily related to a violation of state or federal law unrelated to immigration enforcement.

   c) Participation in the task force by a California law enforcement agency does not violate any local law or policy to which it is otherwise subject. (Gov. Code, § 7284.6, subd. (b).)

3) Requires POST to establish a certification program for peace officers, as defined, and provides that basic, intermediate, advanced, supervisory, management, and executive certificates shall be established for the purpose of fostering professionalization, education, and experience necessary to adequately accomplish the general police service duties performed by peace officers. (Penal (Pen.) Code § 13510.1, subds. (a)-(b).)

4) Authorizes POST to suspend or revoke the certification of a peace officer if the person has been terminated for cause from employment as a peace officer for,

or has, while employed as a peace officer, otherwise engaged in, any serious misconduct, as described. (Pen. Code, § 13510.8, subd. (a)(2).)

5) Requires POST to adopt by regulation a definition of "serious misconduct" that shall serve as the criteria for consideration for ineligibility for, or revocation of, certification of a peace officer, and which must include specified elements. (Pen. Code, § 13510.8, subd. (b).)

6) Provides that if a public employee is convicted of any felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, conflict of interest, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes arising directly out of their official duties as a public employee, the public employee shall be disqualified for five years from any public employment, including, but not limited to, employment with a city, county, district, or any other public agency of the state, as specified. (Gov. Code, § 1021.5.)

7) Provides that a person is ineligible to hold office or employment of any kind under the State, any county, city, district or other political or governmental unit of the State if he, while either a citizen or resident of the United States, has by oath bound himself to support, maintain or further the military or political activities or policies of any foreign government or of any official thereof or society or association therein or to obey the orders or directions of any foreign government or of any official thereof. (Gov. Code, § 1023.)

8) Provides that the California Department of Human Resources (Cal HR) is generally responsible for developing eligibility lists for positions within the civil service comprising California state government, which shall be established as a result of free competitive examinations open to persons who lawfully may be appointed to any position within the class for which these examinations are held and who meet the minimum qualifications requisite to the performance of the duties of that position as prescribed by the specifications for the class or by rule. (Gov. Code, §§ 18900 et. seq.)

9) Authorizes Cal HR or a designated appointing power to refuse to examine, or after examination refuse to declare as eligible, or withhold or withdraw from an eligible list, before the appointment, anyone who meets specified criteria. (Gov. Code, § 18935.)

10) Requires a law enforcement agency (LEA) to conduct a background check on a peace officer or prospective officer, as provided. (Gov. Code, § 1030, subd. (a).)

11) Requires an LEA to submit to the DOJ fingerprint images and related information for a peace officer or prospective officer who is subject to a state and national criminal history background check, as specified, and requires the DOJ to provide a state- or federal-level response, as specified. (Gov. Code, § 1030, subd. (b).)

12) Provides that each class of public officers or employees declared by law to be peace officers shall meet specified minimum standards. (Gov. Code, § 1031.)

13) Provides that any background investigation of a candidate for a peace officer position shall include an inquiry into whether the candidate has engaged or is engaging in membership in a hate group, participation in any hate group or advocacy of public expressions of hate. (Pen. Code, § 13681.)

14) Provides that, for purposes of performing a thorough background investigation for applicants not currently employed as a peace officer or in the case of an applicant for a position other than a sworn peace officer within a law enforcement agency, an employer shall disclose employment information relating to a current or former employee, upon request of a law enforcement agency, if specified conditions are met. (Gov. Code, § 1031.1, subd. (a).)

15) Provides that specified persons are disqualified from being a peace officer in California, including specified persons who have been charged or convicted of a felony, persons that have had a POST certificate revoked or application denied, or any person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or United States territory or by the federal government, whose name is listed in the National Decertification Index of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training or any other database designated by the federal government whose certification as a law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction was revoked for misconduct, or who, while employed as a law enforcement officer, engaged in serious misconduct that would have resulted in their certification being revoked by the commission if employed as a peace officer in this state. (Gov. Code, § 1029, subd. (a).)

This bill:

1) Provides that a person is disqualified from public employment, including, but not limited to, employment with a city, county, district, or any other public agency of the state, because they were previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement.

2) Provides that a person shall not be disqualified from public employment per the above if they are approved to enter a POST basic course, as specified.

3) Provides that a person is disqualified from being a California peace officer if they were previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor, and personally engaged in immigration enforcement.

4) Provides that a person shall not be disqualified from being employed as a California peace officer per (3) above if they are approved to enter a POST basic course, as specified.

5) Provides that, for the purpose of a thorough background investigation, a hiring agency may consider news articles, verified social media posts, filings of civil complaints, and other verified sources.

6) Provides that, for peace officer applicants not currently employed as a peace officer or an applicant for a position other than a sworn peace officer within a law enforcement agency, who were previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement, the background investigation shall be completed by the hiring agency prior to the candidates participation in the POST basic course.

7) Provides that the hiring agency shall review the background investigation and determine if the individual is suitable for entering a POST basic course, and that suitability shall be based on both of the following:

   a) The standards adopted by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training by regulation on suitability.

   b) California laws and regulations, as specified. The standards established for peace officers under all applicable

8) Provides that suitability shall be determined on a case-by-case basis based on information contained in the applicant's background check and any additional information POST deems relevant.

9) Specifies that the hiring agency shall only be responsible for determining suitability for those applicants that affirm they engaged in immigration enforcement and shall not be required or liable under the bill to determine suitability or prior employment history of applicants who did not affirm a declaration of such employment.

10) Provides that as part of the fingerprint-based criminal history review conducted for every applicant seeking peace officer employment or enrollment in a POST basic course, each applicant shall submit to the hiring agency a declaration signed under penalty of perjury that states whether the applicant has, at any time, been employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor that personally engaged in immigration enforcement.

11) Specifies that if the hiring agency determines, based on the declaration above or other information lawfully available to the department, that an applicant has been employed as a sworn law enforcement officer and engaged in immigration enforcement, the hiring agency shall conduct a suitability review for the applicant, as specified.

12) Specifies that a knowingly false declaration submitted pursuant to (9) above shall constitute a false statement made under penalty of perjury and shall be considered by the hiring agency as part of its suitability determination.

13) Provides that Cal HR may refuse to examine, or after examination may refuse to declare as eligible, or may withhold or withdraw from an eligible list, before the appointment, anyone who has been found to have been previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement.

14) Specifies that Cal HR shall not refuse to examine anyone who was approved to enter a POST basic course, as specified.

15) Provides that, for the purposes of an applicant to attend the POST basic course who was previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement, POST shall deny suitability for enrollment in the basic course, unless the commission receives notice from a hiring agency granting their suitability.

16) Specifies that no applicant shall enter the basic course without a hiring agency granting their suitability.

17) Requires POST, by January 1, 2028, to adopt by regulation a definition of "suitability" that shall serve as criteria to be considered for the suitability of an applicant who has engaged in immigration enforcement, and be based, in part, on recommendations from a working group that the commission shall convene which shall consist of 11 members, as specified.

18) Provides that any background investigation of a candidate for a peace officer position shall include an inquiry into whether the candidate has engaged in immigration enforcement, as specified.

19) Requires employment forms used by a state or local agency to require a person applying for employment to disclose whether the person has been employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor personally engaged in immigration enforcement

20) Defines "immigration enforcement" as any efforts to investigate or enforce any federal civil immigration law, including investigating or enforcing any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry to, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States, but excludes conduct permitted under the California Values Act.

21) Specifies that its provisions do not prohibit or restrict any governmental entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, federal immigration authorities information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual, or from requesting from federal immigration authorities immigration status information, lawful or unlawful, of any individual, or from maintaining or exchanging that information with any other federal, state, or local governmental entity, as specified.

22) Includes a severability clause.

Comments

For a discussion of relevant existing law, including existing minimum standards for peace officers and the POST certification and decertification processes, see the analysis prepared by the Senate Committee on Public Safety. Recent amendments restructure the central provisions of this bill, and function to disqualify an applicant for public employment, including as a California peace officer, who was previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement, defined as any efforts to investigate or enforce any federal civil immigration law, including investigating or enforcing any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry to, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States, but excluding conduct permitted under the California Values Act.

This bill also, for purposes of an applicant who was previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement, requires the hiring agency to complete the background

investigation before the candidate participates in a POST basic course, and requires the agency to review the background investigation and determine if the individual is suitable to enter the POST basic course subject to a definition of suitability adopted by POST based, in part, on recommendations from a working group, as specified. This bill also requires an applicant to submit a signed declaration under penalty of perjury to the hiring agency as to whether the applicant personally engaged in immigration enforcement. Additionally, this bill, for purposes of an applicant for the basic course who was previously employed as a sworn law enforcement officer or individual contractor and personally engaged in immigration enforcement, requires POST to deny suitability for enrollment in the basic course, unless the commission receives notice from the hiring agency granting the applicant's suitability.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> Minor costs to state law enforcement agencies. (special funds, General Fund) Minor to modest costs to local law enforcement. To the extent this bill would impose additional duties on local law enforcement agencies, this bill would impose a state mandated local program. Costs will depend on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)
California Democratic Party
California Faculty Association
California Latino Legislative Caucus
California Public Defenders Association
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Justice2jobs Coalition
LA Defensa
Nextgen California
Seiu California
United Domestic Workers/afscme Local 3930

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)
Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association

Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
SFV Alliance

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-21, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Bains, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bauer-Kahan, Krell, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo, Wilson

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/24/26 14:00:34

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1897
Author: Haney (D)
Amended: 8/11/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Mentally disordered offenders: criteria for commitment

SOURCE: San Francisco District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires a psychiatrist or psychologist, when evaluating an incarcerated person for a commitment as an offender with a mental health disorder (OMHD), to consider specified factors in determining whether the person represents a substantial danger of physical harm to others as a result of a severe mental health disorder; and 2) authorizes a court to conduct the OMHD hearing in the county of commitment to state prison upon stipulation of the petitioner, prosecuting attorney, and defense counsel in the county of commitment to state prison.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/11/26 add intent language and clarifying language.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that the Legislature finds that there are incarcerated individuals who have a treatable, severe mental health disorder that was one of the causes of, or was an aggravating factor in, the commission of the crime for which they were

incarcerated. Provides that the Legislature finds that if the severe mental health disorders of those incarcerated individuals are not in remission or cannot be kept in remission at the time of their parole or upon termination of parole, there is a danger to society, and the state has a compelling interest in protecting the public. Provides that the Legislature finds that in order to protect the public from those persons, it is necessary to provide mental health treatment until the severe mental health disorder that was one of the causes of or was an aggravating factor in the person's prior criminal behavior is in remission and can be kept in remission. (Penal [Pen.] Code, § 2960, subdivision [subd.] (a).)

2) Provides that the Legislature further finds and declares the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) should evaluate each incarcerated individual for severe mental health disorders during the first year of the person's sentence, and that incarcerated individuals with severe mental health disorders should be provided with an appropriate level of mental health treatment while in prison and when returned to the community. (Pen. Code, § 2960, subd. (b).)

3) Allows the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH), upon a showing of good cause, to order an incarcerated person to remain in custody for up to 45 days past the person's scheduled release date for a full OMHD evaluation. Defines good cause to mean circumstances where there is a recalculation of credits or a restoration of denied or lost credits, a resentencing by a court, the receipt of the incarcerated individual into custody, or equivalent exigent circumstances which result in there being less than 45 days prior to the person's scheduled release date for the OMHD evaluation. (Pen. Code, § 2963.)

4) Requires incarcerated persons who meet the following criteria to be deemed an OMHD and be treated by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) as a condition of parole:

    a) The incarcerated person has a severe mental health disorder that is not in remission or that cannot be kept in remission without treatment.
    b) The severe mental health disorder was one of the causes of, or was an aggravating factor in, the commission of a crime for which the person was sentenced to prison.
    c) The incarcerated person has been in treatment for the severe mental health disorder for 90 days or more within the year prior to the person's parole or release.

d) The person's severe mental health disorder indicates that the person represents a substantial danger of physical harm to others. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subd. (a)-(d).)

5) Defines "severe mental health disorder" as an illness, disease, or condition that substantially impairs the person's thought, perception of reality, emotional process, or judgment; or that grossly impairs behavior; or that demonstrates evidence of an acute brain syndrome for which prompt remission, in the absence of treatment, is unlikely. Specifies that "severe mental health disorder" does not include a personality or adjustment disorder, epilepsy, intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, or addiction to or abuse of intoxicating substances. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subd. (a)(2).)

6) Defines "remission" as a finding that the overt signs and symptoms of the severe mental health disorder are controlled either by psychotropic medication or psychosocial support. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subd. (a)(3).)

7) Provides that a person "cannot be kept in remission without treatment" if during the year prior to the question being before the BPH or a trial court, the person has been in remission and has been physically violent, except in self-defense, or has made a serious threat of substantial physical harm upon the person of another so as to cause the target of the threat to reasonably fear for their safety or the safety of their immediate family, or the person has intentionally caused property damage, or has not voluntarily followed the treatment plan. Provides that in determining if a person has voluntarily followed the treatment plan, the standard is whether the person has acted as a reasonable person would in following the treatment plan. (*Ibid*.)

8) Outlines the process by which a person is evaluated to determine whether someone meets the criteria of an OMHD. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subd. (d).)

9) Requires the crime for which the person was sentenced to prison to meet the following criteria:

a) The defendant received a determinate sentence.
b) The crime is one of the following: voluntary manslaughter; mayhem; kidnapping; a robbery wherein it was charged and proved that the defendant personally used a deadly or dangerous weapon in the commission of that robbery; carjacking if the defendant personally used a deadly or dangerous weapon in the commission of the carjacking; rape; sodomy by force,

violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the victim or another person; oral copulation by force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the victim or another person; lewd acts on a child under 14 years of age; continuous sexual abuse; sexual penetration by force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the victim or another person; arson; a felony in which the defendant used a firearm; igniting an explosive or destructive device; attempted murder; any crime not enumerated in which the person used force or violence, or caused serious bodily injury; or a crime in which the perpetrator expressly or impliedly threatened another with the use of force or violence likely to produce substantial physical harm in a manner that a reasonable person would believe and expect that the force or violence would be used. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subd. (e).)

10) Provides that "substantial danger of physical harm" does not require proof of a recent overt act. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subd. (g).)

11) Allows the incarcerated person to request a hearing before BPH for the purpose of proving that the person meets the OMHD criteria. Provides that the person may file a petition in the superior court in the county in which the person is incarcerated or being treated. Provides that the burden of proof is on the person or agency who certified the person as an OMHD. Provides that the incarcerated person has the right to a jury trial and the right to be represented by an attorney. Provides that the standard of proof is beyond a reasonable doubt, and if the trial is by jury, the jury verdict must be unanimous. (Pen. Code, § 2966, subds. (a), (b).)

12) Requires CDCR, if the court or jury finds that the person does not meet the OMHD criteria and the person is eligible for release, to notify the probation department of the county of supervision of the pending release within five working days of the court order and work with the county of supervision to coordinate the orderly and safe release of the incarcerated person. (Pen. Code, § 2966, subd. (b).)

This bill:

1) Requires a psychiatrist or psychologist, in determining whether the incarcerated person represents a substantial danger of physical harm to others as a result of their severe mental health disorder, to consider all of the following:

a) The incarcerated person's history of violence that was related to their severe mental health disorder.
b) The incarcerated person's current mental status.
c) The incarcerated person's recent behavior and treatment response.
d) The incarcerated person's current capacity to inflict physical harm on others, including their age, physical condition, and other present limitations.
e) Any clinically relevant factor bearing directly on the risk of physical harm to others.

2) Authorizes the court to conduct the OMHD hearing in the county of commitment to state prison upon stipulation of the petitioner, prosecuting attorney, and defense counsel in the county of commitment to state prison.

Background

An OMHD commitment, formerly known as a mentally disordered offender commitment, is a post-prison civil commitment to further detain a person with a severe mental health disorder. The OMHD Act is designed to confine a mentally ill individual who is about to be released on parole when it is deemed that that the person's mental illness not only contributed to the commission of a violent crime but also continues to make them dangerous to others. Rather than release the person to the community, CDCR paroles the incarcerated person to the supervision of the state hospital, and the individual remains under hospital supervision throughout the parole period.

Penal Code section 2962 lists the criteria that must be proven for an initial OMHD certification: the incarcerated person has a severe mental disorder; the severe mental disorder was one of the causes or an aggravating factor in the commission of the offense; the disorder is not in remission or capable of being kept in remission without treatment; the incarcerated person was treated for the disorder for at least 90 days in the year before their release; and by reason of the severe mental disorder, the person poses a substantial danger of physical harm to others. (Pen. Code, § 2962, subds. (a)-(d).)

The initial determination that the incarcerated person meets the OMHD criteria is made administratively. The person in charge of treating the incarcerated person and a practicing psychiatrist or psychologist from DSH evaluate the incarcerated person. If it appears that the incarcerated person meets the OMHD criteria, the chief psychiatrist then will certify so to BPH.

The incarcerated person may request a hearing before BPH to require proof that they qualify as an OMHD. If BPH determines that the person meets the criteria of an OMHD, the person may file a petition in the superior court of the county in which they are incarcerated or are being treated for a hearing on whether they, as of the date of the board hearing, meet the criteria. (Pen. Code, § 2966, subd. (a).) The person is entitled to a jury trial, which can be waived. The jury must unanimously agree that the allegations of the petition were proven beyond a reasonable doubt. If the court or jury reverses the BPH determination, the court must stay the execution of the decision for up to 30 days to allow for an orderly release of the person. (Pen. Code, § 2966, subd. (b).) If the court or jury finds that the person does not meet the OMHD criteria and the person is eligible for release, CDCR must notify the probation department of the county of supervision of the pending release within five working days of the court order and work with the county of supervision to coordinate the release of the incarcerated person. (*Ibid*.)

Under current law, an OMHD must receive inpatient treatment unless there is reasonable cause to believe that the person can be safely and effectively treated on an outpatient basis. (Pen. Code, § 2964.) If the person's severe mental disorder is put into remission during the parole period and can be kept in remission, DSH must discontinue treatment. (Pen. Code, § 2968.) However, if prior to the termination of parole, the person's severe mental disorder is not in remission or cannot be kept in remission without treatment, the medical director of the state hospital that is treating the person must notify the district attorney who can file a petition in the superior court for continued involuntary treatment for one year. (Pen. Code, § 2970.)

This bill requires a psychiatrist or psychologist, in determining whether the incarcerated person represents a substantial danger of physical harm to others as a result of their severe mental health disorder, to consider all of the following:

- The incarcerated person's history of violence that was related to their severe mental health disorder.
- The incarcerated person's current mental status.
- The incarcerated person's recent behavior and treatment response.
- The incarcerated person's current capacity to inflict physical harm on others, including their age, physical condition, and other present limitations.
- Any clinically relevant factor bearing directly on the risk of physical harm to others.

This bill also authorizes the court to conduct the hearing in the county of commitment to state prison upon stipulation of the petitioner, prosecuting attorney, and defense counsel in the county of commitment to state prison.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/11/26)

San Francisco District Attorney's Office (source)
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Riverside County District Attorney

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/17/26 10:42:59

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1902
Author: Pellerin (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Secure youth treatment facilities

SOURCE: Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a court to order an extended confinement for a person who is set to be discharged from a secure youth treatment facility (SYTF) for up to three years based on a finding that the person is physically dangerous to the public, and to make other changes to the process to extend detention.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, generally, that a minor who is between 12 years of age and 17 years of age, inclusive, when the minor violates any law defining a crime, is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and to adjudication as a ward. (Welfare & Institutions (Welf. & Inst.) Code, § 602, subd. (a).)

2) Authorizes a court to make any reasonable orders for the care, supervision, custody, conduct, maintenance, and support of a minor or nonminor who is adjudged a ward of the court. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 727, subd. (a)(1).)

3) Authorizes a court to order commitment of a minor to a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp, or to juvenile hall if the county does not have a juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp, when the minor is adjudged a ward of the court. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 730, subd. (a)(1).)

4) Authorizes a court to order a ward who is 14 years of age or older to be committed to an SYTF for a period of confinement if the ward meets all of the following criteria: the juvenile is adjudicated and found to be a ward of the court based on an offense listed in Section 707(b) that was committed when the juvenile was 14 years of age or older; the adjudication is the most recent offense for which the juvenile has been adjudicated; and the court has made a finding on the record that a less restrictive, alternative disposition for the ward is unsuitable. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (a)(1)-(3).)

5) Requires the court, in determining whether a less restrictive disposition is suitable, to consider all relevant and material evidence, including the recommendations of counsel, the probation department, and any other agency or individual designated by the court to advise on the appropriate disposition of the case. Requires the court to additionally make its determination based on specified criteria, including the severity of the offense or offenses for which the ward has been most recently adjudicated; the ward's previous delinquent history; whether the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided in an SYTF is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the ward; and whether the goals of rehabilitation and community safety can be met by assigning the ward to an alternative, less restrictive disposition that is available to the court, among other things. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (a)(3)(A)-(E).)

6) Requires the court, in making its order of commitment for a ward, to set a baseline term of confinement for the ward that is based on the most serious recent offense for which the ward has been adjudicated. Requires the baseline term of confinement to represent the time in custody necessary to meet the developmental and treatment needs of the ward and to prepare the ward for discharge to a period of probation supervision in the community. Requires the baseline term of confinement for the ward to be determined according to offense-based classifications. Provides that the baseline term is subject to

modification in progress review hearings. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (b)(1).)

7) Requires the court, in making its order of commitment, to additionally set a maximum term of confinement for the ward based upon the facts and circumstances of the matter or matters that brought or continued the ward under the jurisdiction of the court and as deemed appropriate to achieve rehabilitation. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (c)(1).)

8) Provides that the maximum term of confinement is the longest term of confinement in a facility that the ward may serve subject to the following:

   a) Prohibits a ward committed to an SYTF from being held in secure confinement beyond 23 years of age, or two years from the date of the commitment, whichever occurs later. Allows a ward who has been committed to an SYTF based on adjudication for an offense or offenses for which the ward, if convicted in adult criminal court, would face an aggregate sentence of seven or more years, to be held in secure confinement until 25 years of age, or two years from the date of commitment, whichever occurs later.
   b) Prohibits the maximum term of confinement from exceeding the middle term of imprisonment that can be imposed upon an adult convicted of the same offense or offenses. Requires, if the court elects to aggregate the period of physical confinement on multiple counts or multiple petitions, the maximum term of confinement to be the aggregate term of imprisonment specified in Section 1170.1 of the Penal Code.
   c) Requires precommitment credits for time served to be applied against the maximum term of confinement. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (c)(1)(A)-(C).)

9) Provides that is the intent of the Legislature to apply existing law (beginning with Section 1800), governing extended detention of persons physically dangerous to the public who are served by the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), to persons physically dangerous to the public who are committed to an SYTF, pending development of a specific commitment process for realigned persons. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875.5.)

10) Requires the probation department, if it determines the discharge of a person confined in an SYTF would be physically dangerous to the public because of the person's mental or physical condition, disorder, or other problem that causes

the person to have serious difficulty controlling their behavior, to request the prosecuting attorney to petition the committing court for an order directing that the person remain subject to the control of the department beyond the release date. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (a).)

11) Requires the prosecuting attorney to promptly notify the probation department of a decision not to file a petition. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (b).)

12) Requires the court, if a petition is filed with the court and, upon review, the court determines that the petition, on its face, supports a finding of probable cause, to order that a hearing be held. Requires the person who is the subject of the petition to receive notice, have an opportunity to appear at the hearing with the aid of counsel, and the right to cross-examine experts or other witnesses upon whose information, opinion, or testimony the petition is based. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (c).)

13) Requires the probable cause hearing to be held within 10 calendar days after the date the order for a hearing is issued unless the person named in the petition waives time. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (c).)

14) Requires the court, if it determines there is not probable cause, to dismiss the petition and the person must be discharged from the control of the SYTF, as applicable. Requires the court to order that a trial be conducted to determine whether the person is physically dangerous to the public because of their mental or physical condition, disorder, or other problem, if it determines there is probable cause. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (d).)

15) Requires that the trial be by jury unless the right is waived. Requires the verdict to be unanimous and provides that the standard is beyond a reasonable doubt. Provides that the person is entitled to all rights guaranteed under the federal and state constitutions in criminal proceedings. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (e).)

16) Requires the probation department to continue to have control over the person if an order for continued detention is made. Requires the department to, within two years after the date of the order, file a new application for continued detention if deemed necessary. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (f).)

17) Authorizes these applications to be repeated at intervals as often as in the opinion of the probation department may be necessary for the protection of the

public, except that the court has the power, in order to protect other persons in the custody of probation to refer the person for evaluation for civil commitment or to transfer the custody of any person over 25 years of age to the county adult probation authorities for placement in an appropriate institution. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (f).)

18) Provides that an order of the committing court for continued detention is appealable by the person whose liberty is involved in the same manner as a judgment in a criminal case. Authorizes the appellate court to affirm the order of the lower court, or modify it, or reverse it and order the appellant to be discharged. Requires the appellant to remain under the control of the probation department pending appeal. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 876, subd. (g).)

This bill:

1) Requires that the person remain in custody in an SYTF until the conclusion of a probable cause hearing if the court determines that the petition, on its face, supports a finding of probable cause.

2) Prohibits the probable cause hearing from being continued, except upon a showing of good cause by the party requesting the continuance.

3) Provides that the finding of probable cause may be based in whole or in part on the opinions of an expert admitted through the expert's reports provided that the report was first attached to, or incorporated by, reference in the petition. Provides that the finding of probable cause may also be based in whole or in part on the sworn testimony of a law enforcement officer or honorably retired law enforcement officer.

4) Changes the timeline for the trial and require that the person be brought to trial within 60 days from the determination that there is probable cause, unless good cause to the contrary is shown, the person enters a general waiver of the 60-day trial requirement, or the person requests or consents to the setting of a trial date beyond the 60-day period.

5) Requires the court, if it or the jury finds that the person has a mental condition or disorder that makes them dangerous, to determine the period of continued detention informed by the evidence presented at trial and a clinical assessment by the person's treatment team at the SYTF based on the person's individual treatment needs for the underlying mental condition, disorder, or other problem.

Prohibits continued detention from exceeding three years. Requires the court to state on the record the basis for the period ordered.

6) Requires that the criminal discovery process, as specified, applies to all proceedings.

Background

With the passage of SB 823 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) the state planned the closure of DJJ and realigned the responsibility for managing all youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts to county probation departments. SB 92 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 18, Statutes of 2021) was enacted the following year to establish a new dispositional option for juveniles ages 14 and over who are adjudicated for a Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b) offense (i.e., a specified serious or violent felony) and for whom a less restrictive alternative disposition is not suitable. This dispositional option—commitment to an SYTF—is a secured, custodial setting.

If a court commits a youth to an SYTF, it must set a baseline term of commitment that must "represent the time in custody necessary to meet the developmental and treatment needs of the ward and to prepare the ward for discharge to a period of probation supervision in the community." (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (b)(1).) The baseline term is established using an offense-based classification matrix developed and adopted by the Judicial Council. The court must also set the maximum term of confinement for the youth. In general, a youth committed to an SYTF cannot be held in secure confinement beyond 23 years of age or two years from the date of the commitment, whichever occurs later, unless the youth has been committed to an SYTF based on adjudication for an offense or offenses for which the youth would have faced an aggregate sentence of seven or more years if convicted in adult criminal court. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (c)(1)(A).) In that case, the youth can be held until 25 years of age or two years from the date of commitment, whichever occurs later. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 875, subd. (c)(1)(A).)

Authority to Extend Confinement. Prior to the closure of DJJ, Welfare and Institutions Code section 1800 established a process to extend confinement of a juvenile offender committed to DJJ due to the "person's mental or physical deficiency, disorder, or abnormality that causes the person to have serious difficulty controlling his or her dangerous behavior" making the person "physically dangerous to the public." Upon DJJ's closure and the creation of the SYTF, a

similar process to extend confinement of a juvenile offender committed to an SYTF was codified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 876.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 876 adopted a substantially similar process to order extended confinement for persons committed to an SYTF. The process is triggered by a probation department's determination that the discharge of the person from an SYTF at the time statutorily required would be physically dangerous to the public because of the person's mental or physical condition, disorder, or other problem that causes the person to have serious difficulty controlling their dangerous behavior. The probation department then requests the prosecuting attorney to file a petition at least 90 days before the time of discharge otherwise required. If the prosecuting attorney files a petition and the court determines there is probable cause at a probable cause hearing, a trial must be ordered and conducted within 30 days from the date of the order for trial, unless waived.

If the person is found at trial by unanimous verdict that the person is physically dangerous to the public because of a mental or physical condition, disorder, or other problem that causes the person to have serious difficulty controlling their dangerous behavior by proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the court shall order extended confinement under the control of the probation department for a period of up to two years. A new application for continued detention may be repeated at intervals as often as in the opinion of the probation department is deemed necessary. The court is authorized, in order to protect other persons in the custody of probation to refer the custody of a person over 25 years if age to the county adult probation authorities for placement in an appropriate institution.

This bill makes changes to the detention extension process for individuals committed to an SYTF. First, this bill requires that a person remain in custody in SYTF until the conclusion of a probable cause hearing if the court determines that the petition, on its face, supports a finding of probable cause. This bill also prohibits the probable cause hearing from being continued, except for good cause. This bill provides that the finding of probable cause may be based on expert opinions or sworn testimony of a law enforcement officer. This bill extends the timeline for the trial and requires that the person be brought to trial within 60 days from the determination that there is probable cause.

This bill additionally authorizes the court to order a person's continued detention for up to three years—one year longer than is permitted under current law. The court must state on the record the basis for the period ordered. Finally, this bill

requires that the criminal discovery process applies to all proceedings related to a person's continued detention.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Unknown costs to the counties to extend SYTF confinement from two years to up to three years upon a court finding. For a cost reference, the average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $80,000. With the small number of youths who have SYTF commitments extended under Welfare and Institutions Code 876, extensions could go on indefinitely, so the person could be over age 18, or even over age 25. Regardless, their custody and control remains with the county, either in the SYTF or, for those persons over age 25, who remain under juvenile court jurisdiction, the court could refer them for a civil commitment or transfer custody to adult probation to place the person in an adult institution (but still as a ward of the juvenile court until the commitment ends). Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

Likely significant court cost pressure for additional hearings in juvenile courts to determine if a person set for discharge is physically dangerous to the public. These hearings are among the costliest hearings held in juvenile courts. Each hearing may last at least a week of court time, with concomitant costs to the District Attorney, appointed defense counsel, and the juvenile probation department. Additionally, there are court costs for expert witnesses that are routinely necessary, including experts in adolescent neuropsychology and intellectual disability experts.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office (source)
California District Attorneys Association
California Police Chiefs Association
Capitola Police Department
Chief Probation Officers' of California
City of Scotts Valley
City of Watsonville, Mayor Kristal Salcido
County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Peace Officers Research Association of California
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
Santa Cruz Police Department

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

ACLU California Action
Alianza for Opportunity
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Bridges of Hope CA
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Public Defenders Association
California Youth Defender Center
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Cancel the Contract Antelope Valley
Care First California
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Community Interventions
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Hang Out Do Good
Human Rights Watch
Initiate Justice
In Our Care San Mateo County
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Milpa Collective
Missio Dei Community
National Center for Youth Law
Peace and Justice Law Center
Restore 180
Restoring Hope California
Rubicon Programs
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
The California Youth Justice Project
The Collective for Liberatory Lawyering
The W. Haywood Burns Institute
Urban Peace Institute

Youth Justice Coalition

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Chen, Elhawary, Garcia, Jackson, Kalra, Lackey, McKinnor, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/17/26 10:43:00

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1903
Author: Wicks (D) and Wilson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Construction defects

SOURCE: California Building Industry Association

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to construction defect law, including by substantially changing the applicable standards, providing the builder an opportunity to obtain a release in exchange for repairs effective one year after repairs, providing a builder the ability to bring a motion to dismiss for failing to substantially comply to pre-litigation requirements, and increasing the requirements for notices of claims, and more.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 add to this bill's provisions that substantially amend various sections of the construction defects standards in Civil Code sections 895 and 896, including to require damage to another component part for various defects; add a new section of the standards that make any hairline cracking, efflorescence, temporary moisture condensation, or staining outside of the living space not a violation unless they result in damage to another building component; specify that the release applies effective one year after the conclusion of the repair; remove the requirement that any nonspeculative, present physical damage to another component part; make its provisions prohibiting an insurer from asserting that repairs are a voluntary payment effective July 1, 2027; remove this bill's provisions regarding investigative costs; add a provision that specifies that its amendments apply to structures subject to these provisions regardless of the date of substantial completion or close of escrow, except for when a claim for which a

notice of claim has been served before this bill's operative date, or an action or proceeding commenced before the operative date; and add a severability clause.

ANALYSIS: Existing law:

1) Provides that, in any action seeking recovery of damages arising out of, or related to deficiencies in, the residential construction, design, specifications, surveying, planning, supervision, testing, or observation of construction, a builder, general contractor, subcontractor, material supplier, individual product manufacturer, or design professional is generally liable for, and the claimant's claims or causes of action are to be limited to, violations of the building performance standards articulated in law. (Civil [Civ.] Code § 896.)

2) Requires a homeowner to follow all reasonable maintenance obligations and schedules communicated in writing to the homeowner by the builder and product manufacturers, as well as commonly accepted maintenance practice. (Civ. Code § 907.)

3) Requires, prior to filing any action for construction defect, a claimant or their legal representative to provide written notice via certified mail, overnight mail, or personal delivery to the builder of the claimant's claims that the construction of their property violates any of the performance standards specified in (1), above. (Civ. Code § 910.)

4) Requires the notice in (3) to include the claimant's name, address, and preferred method of contact, to state that the claimant alleges a violation against the builder, and to describe the claim in reasonable detail sufficient to determine the nature and location, to the extent known, of the claimed violation unless the claimant is within a homeowner's association in which case the notice may identify the claimants solely by address or other description sufficient to apprise the builder of the locations of the subject residences. (Civ. Code § 910.)

5) Requires a builder to acknowledge the receipt of a notice of a construction defect within 14 days after receipt of the notice of the claim, and if the claim is served by the claimant's legal representative, or if the builder receives a written representation letter from a homeowner's attorney, the builder must include the attorney in all subsequent substantive communications, including, without limitation, all written communications and all substantive and procedural communications, including all written communications, following the commencement of any subsequent complaint or other legal action, except that if

the builder has retained or involved legal counsel to assist the builder in this process, all communications by the builder's counsel shall only be with the claimant's legal representative, if any. (Civ. Code § 913.)

6) Permits a builder, within 30 days of the initial or, if requested, second inspection or testing, to offer in writing to repair the violation. (Civ. Code § 917.)

7) Provides that if the builder fails to complete the repair within the time specified in a repair plan, the claimant may proceed with the filing of an action. (Civ. Code § 925.)

8) Prohibits a builder from obtaining a release or waiver of any kind in exchange for the repair work mandated by law, and that at the conclusion of the repair, the claimant may proceed with filing an action for violation of the applicable standard or for a claim of inadequate repair, or both. (Civ. Code § 927.)

9) Provides that if the applicable statute of limitations has otherwise run during the repair process, the time period for filing a complaint or other legal remedies for a construction defect claim, or for a claim of inadequate repair, is extended from the time of the original claim by the claimant to 100 days after the repair is completed, whether or not the particular violation is the one being repaired. (Civ. Code § 927.)

10) Provides that a builder may make a cash offer and not repair a defect and that a reasonable release of claims may be obtained in exchange for the cash payment. (Civ. Code § 929.)

11) Requires, in order to make a claim for violation of the performance standards of 1), a homeowner need only demonstrate, in accordance with the applicable evidentiary standard, that the home does not meet the applicable standard, subject to the affirmative defenses set forth in law. (Civ. Code § 942.)

12) Provides that, if a claim for damages is made relating to a construction defect, the homeowner is only entitled to damages for the reasonable value of repairing any violation of the standards, the reasonable cost of repairing any damages caused by the repair efforts, the reasonable cost of repairing and rectifying any damages resulting from the failure of the home to meet the standards, the reasonable cost of removing and replacing any improper repair by the builder, reasonable relocation and storage expenses, lost business income if the home

was used as a principal place of a business licensed to be operated from the home, reasonable investigative costs for each established violation, and all other costs or fees recoverable by contract or statute. (Civ. Code § 944.)

13) Provides that the provisions of (1) though (13) apply only to new residential units where the purchase agreement with the buyer was signed by the seller on or after January 1, 2003. (Civ. Code § 938.)

14) Authorizes a homeowner's association to institute, defend, settle, or intervene in litigation, arbitration, mediation, or administrative proceedings in its own name as the real party in interest and without joining with it the members, in matters pertaining to the following:
    a) Enforcement of the governing documents;
    b) Damage to the common area;
    c) Damage to a separate interest that the association is obligated to maintain or repair; and
    d) Damage to a separate interest that arises out of, or is integrally related to, damage to the common area or a separate interest that the association is obligated to maintain or repair. (Civ. Code § 5980.)

15) Requires that a homeowner's association board, no later than 30 days before filing of any civil action by the association against the declarant or other developer of a common interest development for alleged damage to the common areas, alleged damage to the separate interests that the association is obligated to maintain or repair, or alleged damage to the separate interests that arises out of, or is integrally related to, damage to the common areas or separate interests that the association is obligated to maintain or repair, provide a written notice to each member of the association who appears on the records of the association when the notice is provided. (Civ. Code § 6150.)

16) Defines the following terms:
    a) "Structure" means any residential dwelling, other building, or improvement located upon a lot or within a common area;
    b) "Claimant" or "homeowner" includes the individual owners of single-family homes, individual unit owners of attached dwellings and, in the case of a common interest development, any association; and
    c) "designed moisture barrier" and "actual moisture barrier." (Civ. Code § 895.)

This bill:

1) Removes the definition of "designed moisture barrier" and "actual moisture barrier" and instead defines "moisture barrier" as a discrete building component or material whose primary purpose is preventing water intrusion into the building or enclosure, not to include components whose primary function is structural, aesthetic, or incidental to moisture management, such as interior or exterior finishes, including but not limited to stucco, cladding, siding materials, roof tiles, roof shingles, or other exterior weather proofing finish elements.

2) Amends the definition of "unintended water" to mean water that passes beyond, around, or through the final moisture barrier that is designed to prevent that passage.

3) Adds definitions of "living space" and "non-habitable space," and adds a definition of "actionable water intrusion" to mean either unintended water intrusion into a living space, or unintended water intrusion beyond the final moisture barrier into a non-habitable space that causes actual damage. Specifies that water that does not pass beyond the final moisture barrier is not actionable.

4) Amends numerous of the 45 standards in Civil Code section 896, and removes two standards, including by requiring actionable water intrusion for various standards related to water issues, and by requiring damage to another component in numerous standards.

5) Specifies that, for a function or component of a structure that is not addressed by the standards, a defect is actionable if it causes damage to another component part.

6) Adds new provisions that specify that hairline cracking, efflorescence, temporary moisture condensation, and staining outside of the living space is not a violation of any standard if it does not result in damage to another component part.

7) Specifies that, for the written notice of claim described in (3), above, the notice must:

    a) state that the claimant alleges a violation pursuant to the construction defect laws against the builder;

    b) be signed by the claimant; and

    c) include:

        i) the claimant's name, address, and preferred method of contact;

ii) a description of the claimed violation in reasonable detail sufficient to determine the nature and location, to the extent known, of the claimed violation; and

iii) evidence of the claimed violation, including copies of any reasonably available photographs, estimates, or reports relating to any claimed violation to the extent they exist at the time the notice is provided, and the specific location of the evidence.

8) Specifies that this notice shall have the same force and effect as a notice of commencement of a legal proceeding.

9) Removes the prohibition on a builder obtaining a release or waiver in exchange for a repair, and instead permits the builder to obtain a release or waiver of any kind in exchange for the repair work effective one year after the conclusion of the repair.

10) Provides that, if a claimant does not substantially comply to the pre-litigation procedures, the builder may bring a motion to dismiss without prejudice in any court action, or a motion to stay until the requirements are satisfied in the alternative. Specifies that the court, in its discretion, may award a prevailing party their reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing or opposing the motion.

11) Requires, in order to make a claim for a violation of the performance standards, a claimant must affirmatively demonstrate:

a) There is a violation of the applicable standard; and

b) The violation is caused by the original construction.

12) Prohibits, effective July 1, 2027, an insurer from asserting repairs as a voluntary payment or as payment made without the insurer's consent, or from denying counting the costs associated with those repairs, whether pursuant to a warranty or not, against a deductible or self-insured retention.

13) Specifies that an action may not be filed for a particular violation unless the conditions for filing the action for that violation have been met, unless agreed to by the parties.

14) Specifies that its amendments to the law apply to structures subject to the construction defect provisions regardless of the date of substantial completion or close of escrow, except for a claim for which a notice was served before the

operative date of these amendments and any action or proceeding commenced before the operative date of this bill.

15) Provides a severability clause.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Building Industry Association (source)
21st Century Alliance
Abundant Housing LA
Abundant Housing Los Angeles
American Council of Engineering Companies of California
American Subcontractors Association-california
Anthony Tordillos - Councilmember, City of San Jose
Associated General Contractors
Associated General Contractors, California
Bay Area Council
Brian Barnacle - Councilmember, Petaluma
Cal Chamber
CalAsian Chamber of Commerce
California Business Properties Association
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Conference of Carpenters
California Council for Affordable Housing
California Hotel & Lodging Association
California Housing Consortium
California Yimby
California's Largest Cities
Casita Coalition
Chamber of Progress
Chris Ricci - Modesto City Councilmember
Circulate Planning & Policy
City of Bakersfield
City of Berkeley Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani
City of Burbank
City of El Cerrito
City of Foster City
City of Los Angeles

City of Sacramento
City of Thousand Oaks
Claremont City Councilmember, Jed Leano
Council of Infill Builders
Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, City of Los Angeles
East Bay Yimby
Emily Ann Ramos - Mayor, Mountain View
End Poverty in California (EPIC)
Everybody's Long Beach
Fieldstead and Company, INC.
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greenbelt Alliance
Gregorio Gomez - Councilmember, Farmersville
Grow the Richmond
Habitat for Humanity California
Housing Action Coalition
Housing Trust Silicon Valley
Long Beach; City of
Lucas Ramirez - Councilmember, Mountain View
Matthew Solomon, Councilmember - Emeryville
Mayor Matt Mahan, City of San Jose
Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
Monterey Park Councilmember Thomas Wong
Monterey Peninsula Yimby
Mountain View Yimby
Napa-solano for Everyone
Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services INC
New California Coalition
New Way Homes
Northern Neighbors
Orange County Business Council
Peninsula for Everyone
People for Housing - Orange County
Phoebe Shin Venkat - Councilmember, Foster City
Rebecca Saltzman, El Cerrito Councilmember
Sacramento Councilmember Caity Maple
San Diego Housing Commission
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Yimby
San Mateo Forward

Santa Cruz Yimby
Santa Rosa Yimby
SF Yimby
South Bay Yimby
Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Leadership Council
SPUR
Student Homes Coalition
The Two Hundred for Homeownership
Ventura County Yimby
Yes! in Redwood City
Yimby Action
Yimby Los Angeles
Yimby SLO
Zach Hilton - Councilmember, Gilroy
Zillow Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Action Property Management
Avalon @ Eagles' Crossing Hoa
Avenue One Condos
Berding Weil
Berkeley Balcony Collapse Victims and Survivors
Blackstone Master Association / Firstservice Residential
Broadband Agreements by Mfc
California Association of Community Managers
California Association of Realtors
California Low-income Consumer Coalition
Chapman & Intrieri, LLP
Community Associations Institute - California Legislative Action Committee
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumer Watchdog
Hoainsuranceproject.org
Hudson Management
Kasdan Turner Thomson Booth LLP (UNREG)
Neighbors for a Better San Diego
Phoenix Commons, Inc, 55+ Cohousing
Prendiville Insurance Agency
Regent on the Park
Riley Pasek Canty Seltzer LLP

United Policyholders
Vintage Group
Walters Management

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the California Building Industries Association and a number of other industry and pro-housing groups, which support AB 1903:

> Homeownership is one of the most reliable and widely supported ways to achieve long-term financial stability. However, for many Californians, especially first-time buyers, the path to ownership has become increasingly challenging due to limited housing supply, high prices, and barriers that hinder the production of affordable homes.
>
> California's residential construction defect law, established through SB 800 (2002), was intended to create a fair and efficient process for resolving defect claims while giving builders the opportunity to repair problems before litigation. Over time, however, that system has too often shifted away from timely repairs and toward costly, prolonged litigation. As a result, homeowners are often left waiting years for issues to be resolved, while the costs and uncertainty associated with litigation have made it harder to build condominiums and other multifamily ownership housing.
>
> AB 1903 restores the original intent of the law by strengthening the right to repair, improving clarity and transparency in the claims process, and helping ensure disputes are resolved more efficiently. By realigning incentives to address legitimate construction issues and reduce unnecessary litigation risk, the bill will better support homeowners while also making it more feasible to build attainable missing-middle homes in California.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to the Consumer Attorneys of California and a number of other homeowner's association and consumer groups, which oppose AB 1903:

> [AB 1903] fundamentally dismantles California's carefully balanced Right to Repair Act (Civ. Code § 895 et seq.), which was designed to ensure that residential construction meets minimum safety and performance standards and that defects are corrected before they cause injury or significant property damage.

For more than two decades, California law has promoted early detection and repair of construction defects in exchange for limited timelines within which claims must be brought. AB 1903 upends this framework by requiring homeowners to wait until physical damage occurs before seeking relief, while preserving short statutes of repose that will bar many claims before defects become visible. This approach undermines California's longstanding commitment to safe housing and shifts the risk of unsafe construction from builders to homeowners.

Housing is often the largest financial investment Californians will ever make. AB 1903 shifts the cost of defective construction onto homeowners who cannot afford to pay for builders' mistakes, weakens accountability for unsafe building practices, and reduces incentives to construct housing that complies with basic safety standards.

At a time when California faces an affordability crisis, the Legislature should strengthen—not undermine—consumer protections that ensure homes are safe, durable, and built to last.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Bryan, Connolly, Garcia, Kalra, Lee, Muratsuchi, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/24/26 13:29:11

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1904
Author: Gipson (D) and Muratsuchi (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Teachers: credentialed educator apprenticeship programs

SOURCE: Children Now

DIGEST: This bill (1) establishes the Credentialed Educator Apprenticeships Act and creates a framework for the approval, oversight, and operation of credentialed educator apprenticeship programs in California; (2) requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) to jointly oversee educator apprenticeship programs; (3) authorizes the CTC to issue apprenticeship certificates or permits to participating educator candidates; (4) establishes minimum requirements for apprenticeship programs seeking state approval; and (5) requires the CTC to provide guidance and support for the development and expansion of educator apprenticeships.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

1) Declares it the policy of the state to encourage the use of apprenticeship as a form of on-the-job training and requires public agencies to make diligent efforts to establish apprenticeship programs for apprenticeable occupations.

2) Establishes the DAS within the Department of Industrial Relations to oversee apprenticeship programs in California.

3) Requires the CTC to establish standards for the issuance and renewal of teaching credentials.

4) Requires candidates for a preliminary multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist credential to complete a commission-approved professional preparation program.

5) Establishes the Teacher Residency Grant Program to support partnerships between local educational agencies (LEAs) and commission-accredited teacher preparation programs that provide year-long clinical preparation and mentoring for teacher candidates.

This bill:

1) Establishes the Credentialed Educator Apprenticeships Act within the Education Code.

2) Requires the CTC and DAS to partner in the dissemination, approval, and monitoring of credentialed educator apprenticeship programs.

3) Requires the CTC to communicate apprenticeship requirements to professional preparation programs, LEAs, and other prospective apprenticeship sponsors.

4) Requires the CTC, when reviewing educator apprenticeship program applications submitted through DAS, to verify that:

   a) The program is operated by, or partnered with, a commission-accredited preparation program and, where applicable, an induction program in good standing.

   b) Apprentices receive at least 300 hours of paid on-the-job training before serving as an educator of record.

   c) Apprentices earn a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution before serving as an educator of record.

d) Apprentices receive at least 200 hours annually of support, mentoring, and supervision meeting commission standards.

5) Requires the CTC to notify DAS if a preparation or induction program associated with an approved educator apprenticeship loses accreditation.

6) Requires the CTC to provide information regarding approved educator apprenticeship programs on its website and through relevant reports to the Legislature.

7) Requires the CTC to publish guidance on its website for prospective and approved apprenticeship sponsors, commission-accredited professional preparation programs, and employing LEAs regarding the relationship between educator apprenticeships and professional preparation programs, as specified.

8) Requires the CTC to support the development and expansion of educator apprenticeships in credential shortage areas and geographic areas with persistent educator workforce needs, including, as applicable, through commission-administered grant programs.

9) Authorizes the CTC and DAS to enter into a memorandum of understanding governing information sharing, application review, data collection, and reporting.

10) Authorizes the CTC to issue apprenticeship certificates or permits to educator candidates who:

a) Are employed by an LEA;

b) Are participating in a CTC-approved educator apprenticeship program; and

c) Have successfully completed credentialing background check requirements.

11) Requires the CTC to adopt regulations implementing the apprenticeship certificate or permit process.

12) Requires applicants seeking approval of a new educator apprenticeship program, or expansion of an existing program into a new credential area or geographic region, to submit specified documentation to DAS demonstrating compliance with program requirements.

13) Requires DAS to submit educator apprenticeship applications to the CTC for review before approval and prohibits DAS from approving a program unless the CTC confirms that statutory requirements have been met.

14) Requires educator apprenticeship programs to be administered through a joint apprenticeship committee, or unilateral management or labor apprenticeship committee, and requires joint sponsorship where a collective bargaining agreement exists.

15) Clarifies that apprentices may simultaneously hold another classified position but may not perform the duties of that separate position during apprenticeship hours.

16) Authorizes DAS to initiate deregistration proceedings if an apprenticeship program's associated preparation or induction program loses CTC accreditation.

17) Authorizes the Chief of DAS, in consultation with the CTC, to adopt rules and regulations governing educator apprenticeship programs, including approval standards, program administration, evaluations, working conditions, and minimum standards.

18) Requires the CTC's annual report to the Legislature and Governor regarding teacher availability to include the number and percentage of individuals serving pursuant to an apprenticeship certificate or permit, including specified information regarding those individuals.

19) Specifies that the act does not apply to apprenticeship programs in the education field that do not result in a credential issued by the CTC.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "AB 1904 aims to address the ongoing teacher shortage by establishing the California Teacher Residency Apprenticeship Program, a pathway that helps schools recruit and train teachers from the communities they serve. This approach can be especially impactful in high-need schools serving low-income families, many of which are located in Assembly District 65. One of the primary barriers preventing aspiring teachers from entering the profession is the high cost of obtaining a teaching credential. AB 1904 would help alleviate these financial barriers by allowing prospective teachers to earn while they learn through paid, on-the-job training and mentorship from experienced educator. Additionally, the bill would align California's existing teacher residency programs with a federal and state apprenticeship framework, enabling participating programs to leverage both federal and state funding. This approach would expand resources available to

train and support future educators while strengthening long-term teacher pipelines for California's schools."

2) *Continued investments in multiple educator workforce strategies.* California continues to face staffing challenges in certain credential areas, particularly special education, bilingual education, and other hard-to-staff assignments. In response, the Legislature has invested in a variety of initiatives intended to recruit, prepare, and retain educators, including teacher residency grants, classified employee teacher credentialing programs, Golden State Teacher Grants, and other teacher pipeline efforts.

   This measure represents the latest in a series of proposals intended to expand workforce-based approaches to educator preparation. Similar educator apprenticeship measures have been introduced in recent legislative sessions, reflecting ongoing interest among education, labor, and workforce-development stakeholders in creating additional pathways into the teaching profession. Unlike traditional educator preparation models, apprenticeship programs are generally structured around an "earn while you learn" framework that allows participants to receive compensation while completing training requirements. Proponents argue that such models may help address financial barriers that discourage otherwise qualified individuals from pursuing a teaching career.

3) *Continued investment in teacher residency programs.* Over the last several years, the Legislature has made teacher residency programs a central component of its educator workforce strategy. Teacher residencies are intended to provide candidates with extensive clinical practice, mentoring, and financial support while completing their preparation requirements, particularly in shortage fields such as special education, bilingual education, STEM, and transitional kindergarten.

   Since 2018, the state has appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars to support teacher residency programs. Most recently, the Governor proposed an additional $250 million one-time Proposition 98 augmentation for the Teacher Residency Grant Program, and the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education recently approved that proposal as part of its budget package. If ultimately adopted, the augmentation would represent a substantial additional state investment in residency-based educator preparation.

   These ongoing investments reflect a legislative belief that reducing financial barriers and strengthening clinical preparation can improve educator recruitment, preparation, and retention. The continued expansion of residency

funding provides important context for evaluating this bill and its proposed apprenticeship framework.

4) *Relationship between teacher residencies and educator apprenticeships.* This bill raises a broader policy question regarding how educator preparation programs should be structured and funded in the future. While teacher residencies and registered apprenticeships originate from different policy arenas, education and workforce development, they share many common characteristics, including paid work-based learning, structured mentoring, and partnerships between employers and training providers.

   Supporters argue that educator apprenticeships could complement existing residency programs by connecting educator preparation to California's workforce development infrastructure and potentially creating access to additional funding streams, technical assistance, and support services. Under this view, apprenticeship designation may represent less of a new preparation model and more of an opportunity to build upon and strengthen existing workforce development efforts.

   As California continues to invest in teacher residency programs, policymakers may wish to consider whether educator apprenticeships should operate as a separate preparation pathway or as a complementary framework layered onto existing residency investments. The answer may have implications for how future educator workforce investments are coordinated across the state's education and workforce systems.

5) *This bill is primarily about governance and infrastructure.* Although this bill is framed as creating educator apprenticeships, it does not establish a new credential, modify credentialing standards, or alter existing requirements for becoming a teacher. Rather, the bill establishes a framework through which educator preparation programs may participate in California's apprenticeship system.

   The measure formalizes a partnership between the CTC and DAS, establishes minimum requirements for educator apprenticeship programs, authorizes the issuance of apprenticeship certificates or permits, and creates a process for program approval, oversight, and monitoring. As a result, the primary policy question presented by the bill is not whether educator candidates should satisfy different preparation requirements, but whether California's educator preparation system would benefit from greater integration with the state's workforce development infrastructure.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The CTC estimates General Fund costs of $419,000 in the first year and ongoing costs of $413,000 to support 3.0 additional positions to implement various activities associated with establishing and overseeing educator apprenticeship pathways that lead to a credential.

- The Department of Industrial Relations estimates General Fund costs of $450,000 in the first year and $425,000 ongoing to comply with the bill's requirements.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Children Now (source)
Alliance for Children's Rights
Association of California School Administrators
California Association for Bilingual Education
California Charter Schools Association
California Federation of Teachers
California Teachers Association
EdTrust-West
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Legislative Action Committee - San Mateo County School Boards Association
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Partnership for Children & Youth
Public Advocates
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Small School Districts Association
Western Governors University

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee,

Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wicks

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:42:59

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1906
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Health care coverage: home test kits

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires health plans, insurers, and Medi-Cal to provide coverage without cost-sharing for cervical cancer screening when ordered or provided by an in-network provider consistent with nationally recognized clinical guidelines, instead of annually, and includes coverage for cervical cancer screening test kits that allow patients to self-collect at a location outside of a clinical setting that is ordered by the patient's health care provider .

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 replace "nationally recognized clinical guidelines" with any relevant recommendations published by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as specified. Exempt vision-only, dental-only, or Medicare supplement health plan contracts and insurance policies, as well as Medi-Cal managed care plan contracts, as specified. Remove provisions from this bill regarding billing codes home test kits for sexually transmitted diseases. Make cervical cancer screening tests under Medi-Cal subject to medical necessity and utilization management controls, to the extent required or permitted by federal law. Make cervical cancer screening test kits for screening that allow patients to self-collect samples covered subject to medical necessity and utilization

management controls. Require cervical cancer screening test kits covered under Medi-Cal to be ordered or provided by a patient's health care provider and to be consistent with recommendations published by CDPH, and Medi-Cal policies. Require Medi-Cal reimbursement for a cervical cancer screening test kit to use a clinically appropriate Current Procedural Terminology or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System billing code in order to comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requirements. Indicate Medi-Cal coverage for cervical cancer screening test kits is a covered benefit only to the extent that federal financial participation is available and not otherwise jeopardized and any necessary federal approvals have been obtained. Permit DHCS to implement, interpret, or make specific this coverage by means of all-county letters, plan letters, plan or provider bulletins, or similar instructions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to regulate health plans under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 (Knox-Keene Act) and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to regulate health insurance. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1340, et seq. and Insurance Code (INS) §106, et seq.]

2) Requires every individual and group health plan contract, except specialized health plans, and a disability insurance policy that covers hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to provide coverage for an annual cervical cancer screening test (includes conventional Pap test, federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved human papillomavirus (HPV) screening test, and the option of any cervical cancer screening test approved by the FDA) upon the referral of the patient's physician and surgeon, a nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse-midwife, providing care to the patient and operating withing the scope of practice otherwise permitted for the licensee. Permits application of a deductible or copayment in an existing plan contract. [HSC §1367.66 and INS §10123.18]

3) Establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. [Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §14000, et seq.]

4) Establishes a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program, which includes benefits required under federal law and benefits provided at the state's option, both of which are funded with federal and state dollars. The schedule of

benefits includes annual cervical cancer tests for screening or diagnostic purposes, upon the referral of a patient's physician, to the extent required or permitted by federal law, and home test kits for STDs, including any laboratory costs of processing the kit, that are deemed medically necessary or appropriate and ordered directly by an enrolled provider or furnished through a standing order for patient use based on clinical guidelines and individual patient needs. [WIC §14132 and §14132.17]

5) Requires a group or individual non-grandfathered (plans after the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA)) health plan contract or health insurance policy to, at a minimum, provide coverage without cost-sharing for the following (this is based on the ACA preventive services requirements):
   a) Evidence-based items or services that had in effect on January 1, 2025, a rating of "A" or "B" in United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations, as periodically updated or any modification or supplement to that recommendation adopted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as specified;
   b) Additional preventive care and screenings for women not described in a) above as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), as specified, in effect on January 1, 2025, or any modification or supplement to that recommendation adopted by CDPH; and,
   c) Current USPSTF recommendations regarding breast cancer screening, mammography, and prevention in effect on January 1, 2025, or any modification or supplement to that recommendation adopted by CDPH. [HSC §1367.002 and INS §10112.2]

6) Permits CDPH to modify or supplement baseline recommendations from entities described above that were in effect on January 1, 2025, and requires CDPH to publish any modifications or supplement and filed with the Secretary of State and published in the California Code of Regulations. [HSC §120164]

This bill:

1) Requires a health plan contract, except a specialized health plan, and a disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, to provide coverage for cervical cancer screening when ordered or provided by an in-network provider operating within their permitted scope of practice and consistent any relevant recommendations published by CDPH, including FDA-authorized or cleared self-collected cervical cancer screening

kits that allow patients to self-collect samples a location outside of a clinical setting.

2) Prohibits a health plan contract and disability insurance policy from imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement on the coverage provided pursuant to this bill, to the extent the plan does not fail to be treated as a high deductible health plan, under federal law, as specified.

3) Exempts vision-only, dental-only, Medicare supplement health plan contracts or insurance policies, and Medi-Cal managed care plans from 1) and 2) directly above.

4) Requires Medi-Cal to cover cervical cancer tests for screening that are ordered by a patient's health care provider and consistent with any relevant recommendations published by CDPH to the extent required or permitted by federal law, including FDA-authorized or cleared cervical cancer home test kits for screening that are ordered by a patient's health care provider and consistent with Medi-Cal policies and any relevant recommendations published by CDPH. Subjects home test kits for screening to medical necessity and utilization management.

5) Deletes the coverage requirement for annual cervical cancer screening.

Background

According to the author:

> Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women and is almost always caused by HPV. If caught early, it's highly treatable—but too many Californians, especially those in rural communities and Black and Native populations, face deadly late-stage diagnoses. Cervical cancer screenings have cut deaths by about 70% since 1950, but many people still do not get tested because they lack coverage or cannot easily access a clinic. Recent federal guidance has confirmed the importance of expanding access to cervical cancer screenings by requiring private health plans to cover at-home test kits beginning in 2027. CDPH has not yet adopted these federal guidelines, leaving Californians without this life-saving care. This bill will require coverage of at-home cervical cancer tests at no cost to patients, making preventive care affordable, promoting early detection, and reducing health disparities. This bill also offers significant long-term cost savings for the state, health systems, and insurers by reducing the need for in-person visits and preventing costly late-stage cancer treatments.

USPSTF recommendation. The USPSTF, with an A rating, recommends screening for cervical cancer every three years with cervical cytology alone in women ages 21 to 29 years and then every five years with clinician- or patient-collected high-risk HPV primary screening in women ages 30 to 65 years. As an alternative to HPV primary screening for women ages 30 to 65 years, the USPSTF recommends continued screening every three years with cervical cytology (Pap test) alone or screening every five years with high-risk HPV testing in combination with cytology (cotesting).

HRSA recommendation. HRSA adopted the Women's Preventive Services Initiative recommendation for cervical cancer screening for average-risk women aged 21 to 65 years. For women aged 21 to 29 years, cervical cancer screening using Pap test (cytology) every three years is recommended. Co-testing with cytology and high-risk HPV testing is not recommended for women younger than 30 years. Women aged 30 to 65 years should be screened with primary high-risk HPV testing every five years or cytology and high-risk HPV testing every five years. If high risk HPV testing is not available, continue screening with cytology alone every three years. Women who are at average risk should not be screened more than once every three years. Patient-collected high risk HPV testing is an appropriate method and should be offered as an option for cervical cancer screening in women aged 30 to 65 years at average risk. Additional testing may be required to complete the screening process and follow-up findings on the initial screening. If additional testing (e.g., cytology, biopsy, colposcopy, extended genotyping, dual stain) and pathologic evaluation are indicated, these services also are recommended to complete the screening process for malignancies. Non-grandfathered group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage must cover without cost-sharing the services and screenings listed on the updated Women's Preventive Services Guidelines for plan/policy years that begin one year after this date.

CDPH. CDPH endorses the recommendations of the USPSTF as they stood on January 1, 2025, and HRSA published updates regarding cervical cancer screening for average-risk people on January 5, 2026, with a clarifying addition to align with the American Cancer Society. The CDPH endorsed recommendations are described below and will be published (with potential updates) by CDPH before February 1, 2027. California regulated health plans and insurers are expected to cover these services without cost-sharing by February 1, 2027:

- Age 21-29 years - Cervical cytology every 3 years.
- Age 30-65 years - Primary high-risk Human Papillomavirus (hrHPV) testing is preferred.

  - Clinician collected hrHPV or co-testing (hrHPV plus cervical cytology) every five years.
  - If hrHPV testing is not available, cervical cytology (alone) every three years.
  - Self-collected hrHPV testing should be offered as an alternative to clinician collected hrHPV testing in order to increase screening rates and improve health equity.
  - Screening after a negative self-collected hrHPV test should be repeated in three years (American Cancer Society 2025).
- Additional testing that may be required to complete the screening process and follow-up screening findings are recommended and should be covered without cost-sharing.
- Implementation, systems and infrastructure support for self-collection screening and follow-up testing outside of the clinical setting should be considered.

California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) report. Key findings include:

- *Cervical cancer screening.* Cervical cancer screening detects precancerous changes in cervical cells so that treatment can prevent the development of invasive cancer. The three primary methods of testing are: 1) HPV testing which checks cells for infection with high-risk HPV types of cells; 2) Cytology or Pap testing, where cervical cells are checked for abnormalities caused by HPV. Pap testing does not detect high risk HPV; and, 3) HPV/Pap co-test which tests for both abnormal cells and high-risk HPV infection. There are three FDA approved tests for self-collection in a clinic or office, and two self-collection tests for home: one is FDA authorized, and one is FDA cleared. CHBRP reports 25% of women in the U.S. are under screened and 2% require more frequent screening due to abnormal results or immunosuppression. Studies have also found 41% of women screened with Pap tests, 51% with co-testing, and 9% with HPV testing were over-screened.
- *Coverage impacts and enrollees covered.* CHBRP indicates that 40% of enrollees in state regulated health insurance have coverage without cost-sharing for home test kits.
- *Medical effectiveness.* According to CHBRP, the scientific consensus and pooled data indicate very strong evidence that, when instructions are properly followed, self-samples provide accurate, stable, and clinically valid HPV detection suitable for future widespread home-based screening. Currently, the Teal Wand is the only FDA-authorized home test kit for cervical cancer screening for use at the time of the CHBRP report. The Teal Wand can be requested online through the Teal Health website. Ordering the kit requires

attending a virtual visit with a Teal provider to review the patient's screening history and discuss the at-home screening steps. The test kit is mailed and returned once the sample is collected. Virtual consultation to discuss follow-up care is available through Teal Health. A second product has been cleared by the FDA, BD Onclarity HPV Assay, in April 2026. CHBRP also indicates that some health systems in California are planning their own self-collection screening programs outside of the Teal mechanism, using their own laboratories and mailing infrastructure.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown costs, potentially hundreds of thousands to low millions, in the Medi-Cal program due to increased utilization of cervical cancer screenings (General Fund and federal funds).

Unknown costs for DMHC for state administration (Managed Care Fund).

CDI estimates costs of $7,000 in 2026-27 and $19,000 in 2027-28 for state administration (Insurance Fund).

Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely minor, due to increased California Public Employees' Retirement System plan premiums.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

American Association of University Women - California
American Association of University Women - San Jose Branch
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists - District IX
American College of Surgeons, Southern California Chapter
Biocom
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California Federation of Teachers
California Life Sciences Association
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Primary Care Association Advocates
California Retired Teachers Association
California State Retirees
Health Access California
Informed Policy Advocates
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Teal Health
Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

America's Health Insurance Plans

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) writes this bill addresses barriers by ensuring coverage of clinician-referred home screening options, which can increase screening uptake, particularly among underserved and hard-to-reach populations. According to ACOG, by requiring coverage without cost-sharing across both commercial markets and Medi-Cal, this bill promotes equitable access to lifesaving preventive care, and early detection of cervical cancer and precancerous conditions significantly improve outcomes, reduces the need for more invasive treatment, and lowers long-term health care costs. ACOG writes this bill maintains the role of the patient's health care provider in recommending and guiding appropriate screening, ensuring continuity and quality of care.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Association of Health Insurance Plans writes that this is one of ten health insurance mandate bills that will increase costs, reduce choice and competition, and further incent some employers and individuals to avoid state regulated coverage by seeking alternative coverage options.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Tangipa

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 14:07:54

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1907
Author: Addis (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Health Benefit Exchange

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill expands automatic enrollment from Medi-Cal to Covered California by also allowing people who apply for insurance affordability programs through the Statewide Automated Welfare System and who are eligible for financial assistance to be notified of requirements and be enrolled in specified low-cost health insurance plans as determined by Covered California. Revises open enrollment and effective dates if inconsistent with federal law.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), under which qualified low-income individuals are eligible for medical coverage. [Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) §14000, et seq.]

2) Establishes Covered California as an independent entity in state government, not affiliated with any state agency or department, governed by a five-member board. Requires Covered California to establish and use a competitive process to select qualified health plans (QHPs) and other contractors. [Government Code (GOV) §100500 -100522]

3) Requires, for individuals determined ineligible for Medi-Cal, a county to determine eligibility for other insurance affordability programs and if the individual is found to be eligible, transfer the individual's electronic account to other insurance affordability programs via a secure electronic interface. This electronic interface is known as the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS). [WIC §14005.37]

5) Requires an entity making eligibility determinations for an insurance affordability program, during the processing of an application, renewal, or a transition due to a change in circumstances, to ensure that an eligible applicant, who meets all program eligibility requirements and complies with all necessary requests for information, moves between programs without any breaks in coverage and without being required to provide duplicative information or verification. Requires the individual to be informed about how to obtain information about the status of their application, renewal, or transfer to another program at any time, and that the information must be provided promptly when requested. [WIC §15926]

6) Requires Covered California, upon receipt of an individual's information from the insurance affordability program, to use the available information to enroll the individual or individuals in the lowest cost silver plan available, unless it has information from the county, DHCS, managed care plan, or another plan, that enables it to enroll the individual with their previous managed care plan before the termination date of coverage through the insurance affordability program. [GOV §100503.4]

7) Requires Covered California to provide an individual, who is enrolled pursuant to 6) above, a notice that includes the plan information, the individual's right to select another plan and deadlines for that selection, how to receive assistance to select a plan, the individual's right not to enroll, information on appealing their previous coverage through an insurance affordability program, and, a statement that services during the first month of enrollment will only be covered if the premium is paid by the due date. [GOV §100503.4]

This bill:

1) Makes existing law, which requires Covered California to enroll people no longer eligible for Medi-Cal into the lowest cost silver plan, inoperative on July 1, 2027, and replaces it with 2) through 4) below.

2) Requires, commencing July 1, 2027, Covered California, upon receipt of an individual's electronic account, as specified, or upon receipt of a complete application for an insurance affordability program submitted through the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS), to use the available information to enroll the individual or individuals determined eligible for financial assistance within required timelines in one of the following:
   a) The lowest silver plan available;
   b) The plan in which other members of the modified adjusted gross income household are enrolled;
   c) The lowest cost plan available to an Indian, as defined, eligible for the reduced cost-sharing specified in federal law; or,
   d) If Covered California has information from the County, DHCS, the managed care plan, or another plan as determined by Covered California, Covered California to enroll the individual in a plan offered by the individual's previous managed care plan.

3) Requires plan enrollment to occur before the termination date of coverage through the insurance affordability program or upon receipt of the complete application for an insurance affordability program through SAWS.

4) Requires Covered California to provide an individual who is enrolled in a plan pursuant to this bill with a notice prior to the individual's effective date of coverage that includes specified information, such as: the plan in which the individual is enrolled; the right to select another available plan and relevant deadlines; how to receive assistance selecting a plan; the right not enroll in a plan; information about appealing their previous coverage; and, instructions on how to effectuate coverage and premium payment deadlines.

5) Changes the annual open enrollment period and effective dates for policy years beginning January 1, 2027; to be consistent with specified federal rules to the extent those federal rules are inconsistent with California annual open enrollment and effective dates.

Comments

According to the author of this bill: "In recent years, the introduction of auto-enrollment greatly boosted California's mission to ensure total health coverage for its residents. Despite this progress, changes in healthcare at the federal level will cause up to 3.4 million Californians to lose coverage. This bill will help connect people with affordable coverage plans based on the information they have already submitted, thus streamlining the process and reducing gaps in coverage. This bill is the next step towards ensuring that no Californian falls through the cracks when it comes to obtaining and maintaining not just the health care they can afford, but the health care they deserve."

Background

Auto enrollment. California's insurance affordability programs have implemented several automated enrollment systems to assist a consumer to streamline the process of moving from one program to another. SB 260 (Hurtado, Chapter 845, Statutes of 2019) created automatic plan selection for subsidized Covered California coverage. Through SB 260, Covered California automatically assigns a health plan to a consumer who loses Medi-Cal coverage and gains eligibility for subsidized Covered California coverage. The consumer is then enrolled in the lowest cost silver plan available. When possible, a consumer may be automatically enrolled in the same health insurance plan as their previous Medi-Cal managed care plan to maintain continuity of coverage and care. Records indicate that since this program was implemented in 2023, more than 200,000 consumers have been successfully auto enrolled into Covered California health coverage. Covered California reports that among those who enrolled, 70% kept the default plan and close to 90% remained in the silver coverage tier. More than three-quarters of consumers who transitioned to Covered California did so without a gap in coverage. More than two-thirds of those who transitioned were from communities of color and close to 20% were Spanish-speakers. Lastly, 80% found the sign-up process easy.

Federal policy changes. Recently approved federal marketplace integrity regulations and budget reconciliation legislation will have an impact on Covered California enrollment for eligible individuals with the imposition of onerous eligibility verification processes and the elimination of annual automatic renewal processes. Covered California indicates for the 2025 coverage year, about 73% of enrollees (1.2 million people) automatically renewed coverage. Covered California indicates the 2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Final Rule does not affect the SB 260 auto-enrollment process nor would it impact the process

proposed in this bill. Covered California is reviewing the budget reconciliation bill to evaluate its potential effects on existing programs but does not foresee any immediate impact on this bill.

Open enrollment and effective dates. The open enrollment period for the individual market, including coverage offered both through and outside the Affordable Care Act exchanges, is governed by federal regulations. Previously, the federal regulations required the annual open enrollment period to begin on November 1 of the calendar year preceding the benefit year and extend through January 15 of the benefit year, although a state exchange could adopt a later end date after January 15. The federal final Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Rule, issued on June 25, 2025, changed the open enrollment period dates for benefit years beginning on or after January 1, 2027. Under the amended federal regulations, all exchanges must begin the annual open enrollment period no later than November 1 and end it no later than December 31 of the calendar year preceding the benefit year, and the period may not exceed nine weeks in duration. For those same benefit years, coverage must be effective January 1 for plan selections received on or before December 31 of the preceding calendar year. However, this policy is currently the subject of two federal lawsuits, including one brought by a multistate coalition that includes California. On June 12th in the City of Columbus v. Kennedy, a U.S. District Court vacated the shortened annual open enrollment period for the 2027 plan year. With this ruling, Covered California will maintain a full three-month open enrollment period starting November 1 through January 31.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, Covered California estimates costs of approximately $500,000 (California Health Trust Fund) in CalHEERS-related costs for the system modifications necessary to support the expansion of the auto-enrollment program. In addition, Covered California anticipates minimal expenditures associated with marketing and communications efforts to educate newly auto enrolled consumers.

Unknown costs, likely minor, for DMHC for state administration (Managed Care Fund).

CDI indicates no fiscal impact for state administration.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Academy of Family Physicians
California Association of Medical Product Suppliers
California Behavioral Health Association
California Pan - Ethnic Health Network
California Primary Care Association Advocates
Health Access California
Local Health Plans of California
Los Angeles Care Health Plan
Los Angeles LGBT Center
SHARP Healthcare
Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Health Access California writes this bill will help enroll more people into affordable Covered California plans by expanding the auto enrollment process to include not only people who are losing Medi-Cal coverage but also those who apply but do not qualify for Medi-Cal. Health Access indicates Covered California is the only place where Californians who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. The Local Health Plans of California (LHPC) write that this bill allows for enrollment not only in the lowest cost silver plan but also into plans that better reflect family alignment or enhanced cost-sharing options. Additionally, LHPC writes this bill also strengthens notice requirements by ensuring enrollees receive clear, actionable instructions prior to coverage taking effect, including how to activate coverage through premium payment or opt-in steps. The California Pan-Ethnic Health Network writes that extra steps can create confusion and uncertainty which can be a barrier for some consumers and believes this bill will help enroll more people into affordable health coverage.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins,

Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Teri Boughton / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/17/26 10:43:01

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1934
Author: Bennett (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Blakespear, Grayson, Grove, McNerney, Pérez, Rubio

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program implementation plan

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill directs the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee (WMAC) within the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to develop an implementation plan for a home hardening certification program by January 1, 2028.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the OSFM within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to protect life and property through the development and application of fire prevention, engineering, training and education, and

enforcement.

2) Establishes the WMAC within the OSFM to provide a public forum to solicit and consider public input on community wildfire preparedness and fire mitigation, and advise on the development and implementation of programs under the Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation.

3) Requires the OSFM to develop and make available on its internet website a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance training intended for use in the training of local building officials, builders, and fire service personnel, as specified.

4) Requires the OSFM to develop and update a WUI Products listing of products and construction assemblies that comply with prescribed regulations regarding building in a WUI area.

5) Requires the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to enter into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with CAL FIRE, until July 1, 2029, to develop and administer a comprehensive wildfire mitigation program (CWMP) to, among other things, encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings.

6) Specifies areas eligible for financial assistance under the CWPM to include areas located within fire hazard severity zones and any other lands designated by the JPA, as specified.

7) Requires the JPA to develop eligibility criteria for property owners, community organizations, and local governments that may receive financial assistance under the CWMP.

This bill:

1) Directs, on or before January 1, 2028, the WMAC to develop an implementation plan for a home hardening certification program that identifies home hardening measures, including defensible space, that can be voluntarily implemented during renovation or property improvement projects to substantially reduce the risk of loss during a fire and bring existing building stock into alignment with the California Building Standards Code.

2) Directs the WMAC to provide recommendations in the implementation plan that include, but are not limited to, the following:

   a) Multiple tiers of home hardening certification with at least one tier defined as ember resistant and requires the minimum tier for any voluntary home hardening certification to meet specified criteria.
   b) Identifying the qualifications necessary for individuals tasked with inspecting a home and confirming its compliance, as specified.
   c) The length of time that a certification is valid.
   d) Implementation steps.

3) Requires, by January 1, 2028, the WMAC to provide a report to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature on its findings and recommendations pursuant to this bill.

4) Directs, by January 1, 2029, the OSFM to establish and implement the certification program based on the recommendations in the WMAC's implementation plan.

Background

Home hardening. According to CAL FIRE, home hardening is a method of utilizing construction features, building materials, and maintenance practices intended to increase a building and structure's resistance to ignition from fire exposure, including direct flame contact, radiant heat and embers. Home hardening includes using fire-resistant building materials, adopting safe landscaping practices, and implementing preventative measures to reduce fire risk and enhance property safety. CAL FIRE has information on its website relating to how various components of a home can be vulnerable to fire, whether it is the roof, gutters and vents or the exterior siding, windows, and/or a deck and fence, and provides recommendations to homeowners to minimize those risks.

Defensible space. The University of California Fire Network describes defensible space as the area adjacent to a structure where vegetation and other combustible materials are carefully located and maintained to provide defense from an approaching wildfire burning or to minimize the spread of a structure fire to wildlands or surrounding areas. The purposes of defensible space are to minimize fire pathways to the structure, reduce potential heat exposures to structure components, reduce the potential for embers to ignite materials adjacent to the structure, and provide a safe place for fire personnel to defend the structure and

allow evacuation. Adequate defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or halt the progress of fire that would otherwise engulf a property.

Chapter 7A of the California Building Standards Code. Chapter 7A is California's WUI building code. This chapter establishes the minimum standards applicable to building materials, systems and/or assemblies used in the exterior design and construction of new buildings located within a WUI fire area for the protection of life and property. Chapter 7A was initially adopted in 2008 and has undergone multiple revisions as part of the code development process to incorporate the most recent insights and scientific advancements from technical experts in the field.

The CWMP. AB 38 (Wood, Chapter 391, Statutes of 2019) directs Cal OES and CAL FIRE to jointly create and administer the CWMP to strengthen community-level wildfire hardening. The program has leveraged hazard mitigation grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a wildfire community hardening framework and establish pilot home hardening programs in socially vulnerable communities at high risk of wildfires in the counties of Lake, San Diego, Shasta, El Dorado, Tuolumne, and Siskiyou. The framework incorporates lessons learned from the pilot counties and is intended to be a living document that will be continuously updated throughout the duration of the CWMP.

The WMAC. The WMAC provides a forum for the OSFM, representatives of industry, state agencies, the fire service, and other stakeholders to address wildfire preparedness and mitigation issues of statewide concern, share best practices, seek comments and technical input on specific programs, and inform local agencies and the public of applicable new laws and regulations. WMAC acts in an advisory capacity on the programs and activities of the OSFM's Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division.

This bill requires the WMAC to develop a plan with recommendations for implementing a home hardening certification program by January 1, 2028, and further directs the OSFM to establish the certification program based on the WMAC's recommendations no later than January 1, 2029. As noted by the author, homeowners can only rely on private certifications currently when hardening their home and this bill seeks to begin the process of establishing a statewide certification framework.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, CAL FIRE reports costs of approximately $6.9 million in year one, $12.3 million in year two, $17 million in

year three, $19.2 million in year four, and $20.1 million in year five and ongoing to establish and implement the certification program (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

American Property Casualty Insurance Association
American Rainwater Catchment System Association International
California Apartment Association
California Central Coast Caucus
California Democratic Party Rural Caucus
California Fire Chiefs Association
California Legislative Central Coast Caucus
California Professional Firefighters
California State Association of Counties
City of Berkeley
City of Beverly Hills
City of Orinda
City of Thousand Oaks
City of Yorba Linda
Clean Power Alliance
Consumer Watchdog
Contra Costa County
County of Monterey
County of Ventura
Elevate California
Fire Aside
Fire Districts Association of California
Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara
International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials
Lamorinda Legislative Coalition
League of California Cities
Little Hoover Commission
Matador Fire
Megafire Action
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Pacific Association of Domestic Insurers
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Rural County Representatives of California
Sierra Club
The Nature Conservancy

One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the California State Association of Counties writes that, "California local governments support the establishment of a statewide home hardening certification program because it would provide a clear, science-based standard for reducing wildfire risk to existing homes, strengthening community resilience while helping residents make informed investments in safety. A uniform certification would also improve eligibility for insurance incentives; however, property-level and communitywide wildfire risk mitigation efforts still need to be accounted for in insurance rates and formalized in an update to the Safer from Wildfires regulations. By lowering structure loss during wildfires, home hardening ultimately protects lives and reduces the long-term public costs of disaster response and recovery."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Cassie Royce / E.M. /
8/17/26 10:43:04

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1940
Author: Calderon (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Ashby, Valladares, Weber Pierson

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NO VOTE RECORDED: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-9, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Unlawful practices: discrimination: menopause

SOURCE: California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

DIGEST: This bill adds, to the definition of "sex" within the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), perimenopause, menopause, or postmenopause, or medical conditions related to perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause; and provides that "medical conditions," as used in connection with perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause include, but are not limited to, the existing definition of "medical condition" within FEHA.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 add contingent enactment language to avoid a conflict with AB 2563 (Pacheco).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the FEHA, which makes it an unlawful employment practice, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification, or, except where based upon applicable security regulations, for an employer, on the basis of a person's protected characteristics, to refuse to hire or employ the person or to refuse to select the person for a training program leading to employment, or to bar or to discharge the person from employment or from a training program leading to employment, or to discriminate against the person in compensation or in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 12940.)

2) Provides that the protected characteristics under FEHA are: race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, reproductive health decision making, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or veteran or military status. (Gov. Code, § 12940.)

3) Defines the following relevant terms within the FEHA:
   a) "Employer" includes any person regularly employing five or more persons, with specified exceptions for religious associations and nonprofit organizations.

   b) "Medical condition" means either (1) any health impairment related to, or associated with, a diagnosis of cancer or a record or history of cancer, or (2) genetic characteristics, as defined.

   c) "Reasonable accommodation" may include either of the following: (1) making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities; or (2) job-restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials, or policies, the provision of qualified readers or interpreters, and other similar accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

   d) "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

      i) Pregnancy or medical conditions related to pregnancy.

ii) Childbirth or medical conditions related to childbirth.

iii) Breastfeeding or medical conditions related to breastfeeding.

iv) A person's gender, which means sex, and includes a person's gender identity and gender expression; "gender expression" means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth. (Gov. Code, § 12926.)

4) Requires the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to create a poster on discrimination in employment and the illegality of sexual harassment that sets forth specified information, which an employer must post in a prominent and accessible location in the workplace. (Gov. Code, § 12950.)

This bill:

1) Provides that the definition of "sex" within the FEHA includes perimenopause, menopause, or postmenopause or medical conditions related to perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause.

2) Provides that "medical condition," as used in connection with 1), includes, but is not limited to, the conditions included in the FEHA's definition of "medical condition."

3) Requires the CRD, on or before July 1, 2027, to update its employment discrimination and sexual harassment poster to notify people of their rights and protections in regard to perimenopause, menopause, or postmenopause or medical conditions related to perimenopause, menopause, or postmenopause.

4) Adds contingent enactment language to avoid a conflict with AB 2563 (Pacheco, 2026).

Comments

The FEHA protects against discrimination on the basis of specified characteristics in employment and housing. Protected characteristics include sex, which includes pregnancy, gender, and gender identity, and age, beginning with persons aged 40 years or older. The FEHA also prohibits discrimination on the basis of an intersection of protected characteristics.

This bill expressly adds "perimenopause, menopause, or postmenopause, or medical conditions related to perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause" to the FEHA's definition of "sex." While these characteristics should already be

covered under the definition of sex, or as a form of intersectional discrimination combining sex and age, this bill is intended to remove any ambiguity and to make clear that employees experiencing menopause are protected even if their menopause symptoms are not so severe that they qualify as a disability or medical condition under the FEHA. Additionally, this bill provides that medical conditions relating to perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause include, but are not limited to, conditions that fall under the FEHA's existing definition of "medical condition." This bill also seeks to expand awareness about menopause-related conditions by requiring the CRD to update posters on discrimination to notify employees of their rights and protections in regard to perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (source)
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX
California Teachers Association
Menopause Education Center
Two individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Apartment Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Restaurant Association
National Federation of Independent Businesses

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX:

> From a clinical standpoint, menopause is not a single event; it is a transition that can last years, often coinciding with a woman's peak professional responsibilities. Many women experience significant symptoms, including hot flashes, sleep disruption, cognitive changes, anxiety, depression, and musculoskeletal pain. These are not trivial inconveniences. They can materially impact a person's ability to perform at work without reasonable support.
>
> Too often, however, these experiences are stigmatized, misunderstood, or dismissed. As a result, women may suffer in silence, reduce their hours, or leave the workforce entirely. That is a loss not only to those individuals, but also to employers and to California's economy.

AB 1940 does two important things. First, it provides legal clarity so that workers experiencing menopause-related conditions are protected from discrimination and have access to reasonable accommodations, just as California law already recognizes protections for pregnancy and related conditions. Second, it promotes education and awareness so employers better understand both their obligations and the practical, low-cost accommodations that can make a meaningful difference, such as flexible scheduling, temperature control, or access to breaks.

Supporting menopausal women in the workplace is not burdensome; it is sound workforce policy. It improves retention, productivity, and equity for a substantial portion of California's workforce.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to a coalition of this bill's opponents:

We agree that women experiencing symptoms due to perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause should have protections. Under current law, where menopause-related symptoms rise to the level of a medical condition or disability under FEHA, employers are already required to engage in the interactive process and provide reasonable accommodation where appropriate. *See Sipple v. Crossmark, Inc.*, 2012 WL 2798791 (E.D. Cal. 2012). That framework allows for a conversation between the employee and employer to find an appropriate accommodation and takes into account potential fiscal impacts, especially on small businesses. It also protects employee privacy because employers are prohibited from ever asking what an employee's medical condition is – they are only supposed to know what accommodations are being requested or recommended by a medical professional. FEHA therefore already provides broad remedies and expansive protections for menopause-related conditions, and we are concerned that AB 1940's language will open public and private employers up to litigation as explained below…

By adding perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause to the definition of "sex" in FEHA, our concern is that this creates a new, automatic basis on which to challenge any adverse employment action rather than keeping those conditions under the accommodation framework as described above. Women ages 35-54 represent roughly 40% of all women participating in California's workforce, making this one of the largest demographic segments of the California labor marker according to Employment Development Department's 2025 Labor Market Report. Because employers are prohibited from asking employees to disclose any medical conditions, employers would effectively

have to assume that 40% of the workforce falls in this new protected category. That would make it difficult for employers to ever take any disciplinary action against an employee who falls in this group out of concern for litigation.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-9, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/24/26 12:14:04

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1960
Author: Bennett (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Laird, Stern
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Grove

SENATE EMERGENCY MGT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Stern, Seyarto, Allen, Ashby, Blakespear, Grayson, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Rubio

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-2, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Wildfire Prevention Grants Program: identified cohesive fire communities

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (the Department), in consultation with the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee, to establish a wildfire mitigation validation program to provide voluntary official recognition to a community that achieves progress toward community-scale wildfire preparedness and mitigations; 2) authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to disburse funds appropriated for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program to identified communities that partner with fire safe councils to use for activities related to hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education; and 3) requires the Department, commencing with the 2028-29 fiscal year, to prioritize disadvantaged cohesive fire communities.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/19/26 make conforming changes; and transitioned the proposed "identified cohesive fire community program" to be operated by state or private entities into a specific program at the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law sunsets the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) on July 1, 2029.

This bill:

1) Requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department), in consultation with the State Fire Marshal (SFM)'s Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee (WMAC) to establish a wildfire mitigation validation program to provide voluntary official recognition to a community that achieves progress towards community-scale wildfire preparedness and mitigation.
2) Requires the Department, in consultation with WMAC, to set the wildfire mitigations.
3) Requires the Department, in consultation with WMAC, to set the minimum percentage of mitigations required to achieve recognition in this program and requires the Department to set increases in those percentages to incentivize continued community-scale preparedness.
4) Authorizes the Department, commencing with the 2028-29 fiscal year, to disburse funds appropriated for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program to recognized communities that partner with fire safe councils or other eligible groups to use for activities related to hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education, among other activities.
5) Specifies that, for the purposes of the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program distribution, a fire safe council shall be the entity the applies to the department for grant funding and receives and manages any awarded funding.
6) Authorizes the Department to award preference to disadvantaged recognized communities pursuant to the Department's established procedures for prioritizing disadvantaged applicants for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program.
7) Specifies that qualification as a recognized community shall not be used for the purposes of insurance.

Background

Wildfire Prevention Grants. Administered by the Department, the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program funds projects in and near fire threatened communities to improve public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Home hardening. The Department and California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) are authorized to enter into a joint powers agreement to administer a Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program.

Incentivizing individual home hardening. This bill would provide an incentive for individual homeowners to undertake work to harden their home, by providing for a hardened community to be eligible for grants that may further protect their neighborhood from wildfire.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal analysis reflects a previous version of this bill:

- By authorizing the Department to provide wildfire prevention grants to identified cohesive fire communities (ICFCs) that partner with fire safe councils, and providing that disadvantaged ICFCs receive preference under CalFire's established procedures for prioritizing disadvantaged applicants, this bill would create cost pressures of an unknown amount possibly in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars annually, on the wildfire prevention grant program (General Fund, special fund such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF], or bond funds such as the Proposition 4 climate bond) to the extent there is increased demand for funding from eligible communities.
- The Department reports its administrative costs to implement this bill are absorbable within existing resources.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Berkeley; City of
California Fire Chiefs Association
Clean Power Alliance
Consumer Watchdog
County of Ventura
Fire Aside, INC
Fire Districts Association of California

Matador Fire
Megafire Action
Orange County Fire Authority

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)
None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Last year, we watched entire communities destroyed by ferocious wildfires. As California continues to grapple with more frequent, intense, and destructive wildfires, we need to ensure whole neighborhoods won't be decimated. AB 1960 allows CAL FIRE to disperse Wildfire Prevention Grant funding to communities that have reached at least a certain number of homes hardened. This bill incentivizes California's communities to reduce risk together, rather than one home at a time. Through strategic planning, retrofitting, and engagement, Californians will decrease property loss and become more resilient in the face of climate change."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-2, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Hadwick, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gallagher, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Wilson

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/20/26 10:31:56

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1967
Author: Zbur (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Ashby, Valladares, Weber Pierson

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Becker, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Juveniles

SOURCE: Alliance for Children's Rights
California Coalition for Youth

DIGEST: This bill modifies the procedures through which a minor can apply to a social worker for a petition, on their own behalf, to find them a dependent of the juvenile court; and permits a nonminor to become a dependent of the juvenile court if their former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s) receive benefits on their behalf, but the minor no longer receives any support from their former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s), as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 clarify when a nonminor is eligible to become a dependent of the juvenile court in circumstances when they are no longer receiving support from their former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s); remove

language that may have exceeded requirements under federal law; and add contingent enactment language.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the juvenile court, which has jurisdiction over minors who are suffering or at substantial risk of suffering harm or abuse and may adjudge the minor to be a dependent of the court. (Welfare & Institutions (Welf. & Inst.) Code, § 300.)

2) Permits the juvenile court to retain jurisdiction over any person who is found to be a ward or dependent child of the juvenile court until they attain 21 years of age. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 303.)

3) Establishes criteria for who qualifies as a nonminor dependent subject to the extended jurisdiction under 2), including that the nonminor attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement and has a transitional independent living case plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 11400(v).)

4) Permits a person to apply to a social worker to commence proceedings in the juvenile court.

   a) The application must be in the form of an affidavit alleging that the child is within the county and falls within the juvenile court's jurisdiction.

   b) The social worker must immediately investigate, as necessary, to determine whether proceedings in the juvenile court should be commenced.

   c) If the social worker does not commence a program of supervision with the consent of the parent or file a petition within three weeks after the application, the social worker shall state their intent not to proceed and the reasons therefor and notify the applicant of that decision. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 329.)

5) Permits a person who applied to a social worker pursuant to 4), when the social worker declines to commence a program of supervision or file a petition, to, within one month after making the application, apply to the court to review the social worker's decision; the court may affirm the decision of the social worker or, if the court finds that the child is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, order the social worker to commence juvenile court proceedings. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 331.)

6) Permits a nonminor who has not attained 21 years of age to petition the court in which they were previously found to be a dependent or delinquent child of the juvenile court for a hearing to determine whether to assume dependency jurisdiction over the nonminor, provided that the nonminor meets specified criteria. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 388.1.)

7) Provides, within certain criteria for the assumption of dependency jurisdiction under 6), that a nonminor does not qualify for the assumption of dependency jurisdiction if the nonminor's former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s) no longer provide ongoing support to, and no longer receive benefits on behalf of, the nonminor after the nonminor attained 18 years of age. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 388.1(a).)

8) Permits a nonminor who meets the requirements of 6) to enter into a voluntary reentry agreement in order to establish eligibility for foster care benefits before or after filing the petition to assume dependency jurisdiction; if the agreement is made with a placing agency, the agency shall file the petition to dependency jurisdiction on the nonminor's behalf, unless the nonminor elects to file the petition at an earlier date. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 388.1.(e).)

This bill:

1) Provides that an affidavit in support of an application to a social worker to commence proceedings in the juvenile court may be submitted to the social worker by mail, facsimile, or email.

2) Provides that, if an application to a social worker to commence proceedings in the juvenile court is submitted by the minor on their own behalf or by the minor's attorney, and the minor is currently residing at a residential facility, as defined, for children and youth, the social worker shall, when conducting a safety assessment or substitute care provider safety assessment, also assess the safety of the home of those who hold the custodial rights of the minor.

3) Provides that, if a minor or attorney has applied on the minor's behalf to a social worker to commence juvenile court proceedings and the social worker does not file a petition within three weeks after the petition, and the minor has applied to the juvenile court to review the decision of the social worker, the juvenile court shall review the decision and either affirm the decision or order the social worker to commence juvenile court proceedings within 14 days of the minor's application to the court for review.

4) Eliminates the provisions preventing a nonminor who has not attained 21 years of age, and who otherwise meets the conditions for extended foster care, from petitioning the court to resume dependency jurisdiction over themself if their adoptive parent(s) or former guardian(s) receive specified benefits or payments on the nonminor's behalf; and instead permits such a minor to petition the court to resume dependency jurisdiction if their adoptive parent(s) or former guardian(s) receive benefits for the nonminor, but the minor is no longer receiving any support from their former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s).

5) Provides that a nonminor may enter into a voluntary reentry agreement to establish eligibility for foster care benefits before or after filing a petition to assume dependency only if one of the two following conditions apply:

   a) The nonminor's former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s), as applicable, have died.

   b) The nonminor is no longer receiving any support from their former guardian(s) or adoptive parent(s).

6) Permits the Department of Social Services to implement the changes made in 6) by means of all-county letters or similar instructions from the department until January 1, 2028.

7) Makes nonsubstantive technical and conforming changes.

8) Adds contingent enactment language to avoid a conflict with AB 2764 (Ahrens, 2026).

Comments

California's foster care system provides temporary care for children who have been removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse. Through extended foster care, youths who would otherwise "age out" of the system when they turn 18 may voluntarily remain in the system from 18 to 21 and thus receive support, housing, and educational or employment assistance while transitioning to independent living.

According to the author and sponsor, some of the most at-risk youth and minors currently face barriers to obtaining foster benefits. When a youth who is living in a homeless shelter requests that a social worker investigate and file a dependency petition on their behalf, current law is not clear that the social worker's

investigation must include an investigation into the youth's original home (i.e., the circumstances that caused them to leave and go to the shelter). Current law also puts the burden on a person who seeks an investigation by a social worker to seek judicial review if the social worker declines to file a petition. With respect to nonminor dependents, current law prohibits a nonminor from petitioning for entry into extended foster care if their guardian or adoptive parent is receiving specified benefits on their behalf; unfortunately, sometimes the guardian or adoptive parent does not actually pass those benefits onto the nonminor, leaving the nonminor stuck without support and without a path back into extended foster care.

This bill seeks to make it easier for minors and eligible nonminors to access foster care services by; (1) requiring a more timely and more appropriately focused child welfare investigation whenever a minor who, while living in a residential facility, seeks to enter foster care through self-petition; and (2) ensuring that a nonminor is not precluded from extended foster care when a former guardian or adoptive parent continues to collect benefits for the nonminor, but the nonminor is not actually receiving any support from that guardian or adoptive parent. Recent floor amendments removed the provisions requiring the court to terminate benefits provided to an adoptive parent or guardian, because those provisions may have exceeded the requirements under federal law; as amended, dependency courts will follow federal law regarding benefits termination.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Alliance for Children's Rights (co-source)
California Coalition for Youth (co-source)
AdvancED Consulting LLC
California Alliance of Caregivers
California Alliance of Child and Family Caregivers
California Democratic Party
Children Now
Equality California
John Burton Advocates for Youth
National Network for Youth
Public Counsel
Seneca

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

CAUSE

Child & Parental Rights Campaign
Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender
Moms for Liberty Los Angeles County
Our Duty
Public Education Oversight Project
One individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Alliance for Children's Rights and the California Coalition for Youth:

> AB 1967 will improve upon the existing referral pathway for anyone who suspects that a youth has been the victim of abuse or neglect when the petition is made by the youth themselves to prevent them from falling through the cracks. AB 1967 will support older youth access the supports and services of extended foster care, if they choose to self-petition for entry into foster care, by requiring county social workers to review the circumstances in the home of the youth, rather than a youth shelter or group home, if the youth is not living at home when determining whether to open a juvenile dependency case. In addition, by requiring the juvenile court to review the decision and either affirm the decision or order the social worker to commence juvenile court proceedings within 14 days of the minor's application to the court for review, if a minor has applied on their own behalf to the social worker to commence juvenile court proceedings, and the social worker does not file a petition within three weeks after the application, and the minor has applied to the juvenile court to review the decision of the social worker.
>
> AB 1967 will also support older youth in failed adoptions or guardianships access the supports and services of extended foster care, if they choose to voluntarily reenter foster care by:
>
> - suspending the payment to the adoptive parent or guardian when they are not providing support to a nonminor, and
> - allowing the nonminor to enter into extended foster care under a voluntary reentry agreement.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to CAUSE:

> AB 1967 creates a statutory mechanism where a minor in any residential facility licensed under Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code (including: inpatient psychiatric facilities, drug rehabilitation programs, faith-based residential programs, wilderness therapy programs, private alternative

(therapeutic) boarding schools, outdoor behavioral programs, and youth shelters) may on their own - or with the assistance of ideologically motivated staff - initiate state dependency proceedings against his or her own parents, triggering a mandatory government investigation of the family home, setting in motion a pathway into the juvenile dependency system and the temporary and permanent removal of a distressed, vulnerable child from their parents.

AB 1967 is another step taken by the State of California to subvert parent rights and separate troubled teenagers from their loving families. This bill raises serious constitutional concerns under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fourth Amendment, and will not stand up to constitutional scrutiny by the courts.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gallagher, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/24/26 12:21:55

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1969
Author: Bonta (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

PRIOR SENATE VOTES NOT RELEVANT

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/26/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-14, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Community Schools Partnership Program: Promise Neighborhoods

SOURCE: Grace INC

DIGEST: This bill requires any local education agency that retains funds distributed through the California Community Schools Partnership Program for administration to use the funds consistent with the Community Schools Framework and authorizes the local educational agency to use those funds to make a schoolsite a network lead for multiple schoolsites located in a Promise Neighborhood.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 remove the definitions and grant program and instead allow local education agencies to use funds retained from the California Community Schools Partnership Program as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:
1) Establishes, in federal law, the Promise Neighborhood program, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations, or institutions of higher education, which, together with partners, develop and implement plans to significantly improve outcomes of children living in a given neighborhood. (20 United States Code (U.S.C.) section 7274)

2) Establishes the "California Cradle-to-Career Data Systems Act", which expresses legislative intent to build a data system that services students and families by identifying and tracking predictive indicators to enable parents, teachers, health and human services providers, and policymakers to provide appropriate interventions and supports to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students. (Education Code (EDC) section 10850 et seq.)

3) Defines "Community school" to mean a public school serving preschool, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, with strong and intentional community partnerships ensuring pupil learning and whole child and family development, and specifically includes the following:

   a) Integrated supports services, including the coordination of trauma-informed health, mental health, and social services that ensure coordination and support with county and local educational agency resources and nongovernmental organizations, and early screening and intervention for learning and other needs.

   b) Family, pupil, schoolsite staff, and community engagement, which may include home visits, home-school collaboration, culturally responsive community partnerships to strengthen family well-being and stability, and school climate surveys.

   c) Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators, including professional development to transform school culture and climate, that centers on pupil learning and supports mental and behavioral health, trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning, restorative justice, and other key areas relating to pupil learning and whole child and family development.

   d) Extended learning time and opportunities, including before and after school care and summer programs. (EDC section 8901 (b))

4) Allocates funding to the California Community Schools Partnership Program to be spent in accordance with the California Community Schools Framework and used to implement community schools supported by local networks and to implement shared decision-making practices with education interest holders but not be used for punitive disciplinary practices or the engagement of campus law enforcement. (EDC section 8903 (b))

5) Allows local education agencies to retain 10% of California Community Schools Partnership Program funds for administration. (EDC section 8903 (f))

This bill:

1) Makes findings and declarations about child poverty and the impact of place-based initiatives.

2) Authorizes local education agencies that retain the allowable amount of California Community Schools Partnership Program funds for administration to use it to establish a schoolsite as the network lead for multiple schoolsites in a Promise Neighborhood.

Background

According to the author, "A strong understanding of the community and regional context, as well the effective coordination of services and supports aligned with the needs of the community, are essential to achieving better outcomes for children and families at every stage of life – from cradle to career.

"Over the last 10 years, Promise Neighborhoods, Cradle to Career (C2C) networks, and similar entities have worked in disadvantaged communities. Utilizing a place-based, equity-focused approach, these networks coordinate services and supports across the public and private sectors and collect and share data to maximize the efficiency and efficacy of programming. Areas where these networks have operated have seen substantial improvements in healthcare access, literacy, and college and career readiness, as well as reduced child welfare and juvenile justice involvement. To scale these proven cradle- to- career solutions, the state must invest in the "It Takes A Village" strategy by allowing Local Educational Agencies to partner up with these community based networks like Promise Neighborhoods in order to provide community schools with a support network."

California's Safety Net. According to End Poverty in California, "the safety net's job is to undo the poverty and disparities wrought by other institutions" by providing financial and programmatic support to folks already experiencing poverty or economic need. In California, the safety net includes numerous programs that provide a mix of supports and services including cash grants, nutritional support, housing assistance, and tax credits. These programs include CalFresh, CalWORKs, school lunch programs, the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program, state and federal Earned Income Tax Credit, the child tax credit, General Assistance, and Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment.

These programs help millions of Californians each year. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit lowered poverty rates in 2023 by 2.3 points among children and CalFresh prevented 3.7% more children from living in poverty. Additionally, CalWORKs and General Assistance together lowered California's child poverty rate by 0.9%.

The majority of safety net programs have stringent and unique eligibility criteria and different application and access points, which make programs difficult to navigate and attain for families who need support, especially when compounded with the chronic stress of living in poverty.

Community Schools. Community Schools are an educational model that requires schools to provide services that care for the whole student, not just their educational needs. This includes expanded options for before and after school programs, health and wellness services, and services for the student's family. The schools provide these services with their own funding and through partnerships with community organizations. According to the State Department of Education, community schools usually include four features: (1) integrated support services; (2) family and community engagement; (3) collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators; and (4) extended learning time and opportunities. This bill acknowledges the alignment in administration and mission of place-based partnerships and community schools. This year the California budget included $1 billion allocated for the California Community Schools Partnership Program to allow local education agencies to implement new community schools and provide ongoing support for existing community schools. Local education agencies can retain 10% of the funding they receive for specified activities. This bill allows schools that receive funding to also use it to serve as the network lead for multiple school sites in a Promise Neighborhood.

Federal Promise Neighborhoods. Promise Neighborhoods are a holistic, place-based approach to reducing poverty and improving economic, social, and academic outcomes in disadvantaged communities by developing "cradle to career" solutions that support children and families. According to the Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force, "Promise Neighborhoods tailor their specific set of cradle-to-college-and-career solutions to the local context, but each share the following characteristics: results-driven focus on impacting population-level results; place-based to focus on a specific high-need geography; collective impact is achieved through partnerships."

Notable examples of Promise Neighborhoods outside of California include the Promise Heights Neighborhood in Baltimore. According to the Urban Institute,

"Promise Heights successfully built partnerships with schools, community organizations, and families. These partnerships served as the infrastructure for expanded access to a cradle-to-career pipeline of resources and supports aligned with the goals of the Promise Neighborhoods program. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, the flexibility of grant funding enabled Promise Heights to pivot from its long-term strategy in order to meet urgent needs that arose in the community. Although Promise Heights made a shift toward a partnership-based model and established a childcare center to sustain programming, the initiative faced barriers to sustainability in the final years of the grant."

Related/Prior Legislation:

AB 1321 (Bonta, 2023) was substantially similar to this bill. AB 1321 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2517 (Bonta, 2022) was substantially similar to this bill. AB 2517 was vetoed by Governor Newsom, who cited costs concerns and stated, "Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process."

AB 132 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021) establishes the Cradle-to-Career Data System to link data on student progress through education, workforce training, employment, health and social services; establishes a governing board comprised of 21 members; and establishes the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data within Government Operations Agency until July 1, 2026, among other things.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations for the 6/10/26 version of this bill: "Unknown General Fund costs, potentially tens of millions, to fund the grant program. Unknown General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, annually for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to administer the grant program. The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates General Fund costs of $384,000 in 2026–27 and $378,000 in 2027–28 for state administration."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Grace INC (Source)
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
California Primary Care Association
Cft – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, Aft, Afl-cio

Emeryville, City of
Greater Sacramento Urban League
Marin Promise Partnership
Mission Economic Development Agency
Oakland, City of
Resources for Community Development
Sbcs

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-14, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Flora, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Schultz

Prepared by: Naima Ford Antal / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/26/26 19:30:30

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1974
Author: Stefani (D)
Amended: 5/28/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-2, 4/20/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Firearms: voluntary firearm storage program

SOURCE: Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a law enforcement agency to create a voluntary firearm storage program that allows a person to voluntarily transfer custody of their firearm to the local law enforcement agency for temporary safekeeping purposes to prevent firearm violence, suicide, and other injury, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Generally prohibits the sale, lease or transfer of firearms unless the person has been issued a license by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and establishes various exceptions to this prohibition. (Penal (Pen.) Code, §§ 26500-26625.)

2) Provides that a license to sell firearms is subject to forfeiture for any violation of a number of specified prohibitions and requirements, with limited exceptions. (Pen. Code, § 26800, subd. (a).)

3) Includes several exemptions from the requirement that transfers go through a licensed dealer, including for the transfer of a firearm by bequest or intestate succession, or to a surviving spouse, or transfers by a person acting pursuant to operation of law, a court order, or pursuant to other specified laws. (Pen. Code, §§ 26505, 26515.)

4) Provides that persons convicted of felonies and certain violent misdemeanors are prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm. (Pen. Code, §§ 29800, 29805.)

5) Provides that where neither party to a firearms transaction holds a dealer's license (i.e. a "private party transaction"), the parties shall complete the transaction through a licensed firearms dealer. (Pen. Code, § 27545.)

6) Provides that the above provision does not apply to a firearm transfer if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

    a) The firearm is voluntarily and temporarily transferred to another person who is 18 years of age or older for safekeeping to prevent it from being accessed or used to attempt suicide by the transferor or another person that may gain access to it in the transferor's household.

    b) The transferee does not use the firearm for any purpose and, except when transporting the firearm to the transferee's residence or when returning it to the transferor, keeps the firearm unloaded and securely stored in the transferee's residence.

    c) The duration of the loan is limited to that amount of time reasonably necessary to prevent harm.

    d) The individual receiving the firearm is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, receiving, owning, or purchasing a firearm. (Pen. Code, § 27882, subd. (a).)

7) Provides that if a firearm transferred pursuant to the above cannot be returned to the owner because the owner is prohibited from possessing a firearm, the person in possession of the firearm shall deliver the firearm to a law enforcement agency without delay. (Pen. Code, § 27882, subd. (b).)

8) Establishes procedures for the transfer of a firearm to a dealer or a third party in order to prevent it from being accessed or used by the transferor or other persons that may gain access to it in the transferor's household to cause significant danger of personal injury to themselves or others. (Pen. Code, §§ 27882, 26892.)

9) Prohibits firearm dealers from delivering newly purchased firearms within 10 days of the application to purchase a firearm, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 26815.)

10) Provides that any person who claims title to any firearm, ammunition feeding device, or ammunition that is in the custody or control of a court or law enforcement agency and who wishes to have the firearm, ammunition feeding device, or ammunition returned shall make application, including specified information, for a determination by the Department of Justice as to whether the applicant is eligible to possess a firearm, ammunition feeding device, or ammunition, as provided. (Pen. Code, § 33850, subd. (a).)

11) Provides that a person who owns a firearm that is in the custody of a court or law enforcement agency and who does not wish to obtain possession of the firearm, and the firearm is an otherwise legal firearm, and the person otherwise has right to title of the firearm, shall be entitled to sell or transfer title of the firearm to a licensed dealer or a third party that is not prohibited from possessing that firearm. (Pen. Code, § 33850, subd. (b).)

12) Specifies several requirements that must be satisfied before a law enforcement agency or court that has taken custody of any firearm, ammunition feeding device, or ammunition may be returned to an individual claiming said items. (Pen. Code, § 33855.)

13) Specifies that when DOJ receives a completed application for return of a firearm, it shall conduct an eligibility check of the applicant to determine whether the applicant is eligible to possess a firearm, ammunition feeding device, or ammunition. (Pen. Code, § 33865, subd. (a).)

14) Provides that if a law enforcement agency determines that an applicant requesting the return of a firearm, ammunition feeding device, or ammunition is the legal owner of said items, the applicant shall be entitled to sell or transfer those items to a licensed firearm or ammunition vendor, as applicable. (Pen. Code, § 33870.)

15) Requires a law enforcement agency to enter into the DOJ's Automated Firearm System each firearm that has been reported stolen, lost, found, recovered, held or safekeeping, surrendered, relinquished, or under observation, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 11108.2.)

16) Requires any weapon surrendered to law enforcement under specified provisions to be destroyed, except as specified. (Pen. Code, § 18005, subd. (a).)

17) Requires every California law enforcement agency to develop and maintain a written policy on the destruction of firearms and other weapons, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 18005, subd. (e).)

This bill:

1) Provides that a law enforcement agency may create a voluntary firearm storage program that allows a person to voluntarily transfer custody of their firearm to the local law enforcement agency for temporary safekeeping purposes to prevent firearm violence, suicide, and other injury.

2) Provides that an agency adopting a voluntary storage program shall not be held liable for damage to the firearms while the firearms are in the temporary custody of the agency.

3) Requires the following of any law enforcement agency that elects to adopt a voluntary storage program:

    a) The agency shall have the capability to store the firearm for a duration of one year.

    b) The agency shall provide clear instructions on the procedure for a person to voluntarily transfer custody of their firearm to the law enforcement agency, and make the procedure available to the public on the agency's internet website, as specified.

    c) The agency shall provide clear instructions on the process for requesting return of the firearms in accordance with existing law, including, but not limited to, by electronically submitting a Law Enforcement Release application for the return of a firearm via the California Firearms Application Reporting System (CFARS). Instructions on the process for requesting the return of surrendered firearms shall be made available to the public on the agency's website.

    d) The agency shall provide clear information on the maximum amount of time that the law enforcement agency may store a firearm and on the disposition of a firearm after the firearm has exceeded the maximum storage time allowed by the local law enforcement agency. This information must notify the person that their firearm or firearms shall be destroyed, returned to the person, or donated to a public or private nonprofit historical society, museum, or institutional collection.

    e) The agency shall provide clear information on how people using the safe storage program, if they decide they no longer want their firearm at any point during the firearm storage period, can elect to have the firearm destroyed, donated to a public or private nonprofit historical society, museum, or institutional collection, or, pursuant to policies and

procedures set forth in existing law, may sell or transfer title of the firearm to a licensed dealer or a third party that is not prohibited from possessing that firearm.

4) Provides that upon receipt of a firearm, a law enforcement agency with a voluntary storage program must do all of the following:

    a) Check the Automated Firearm System (AFS) to ensure that the firearm has not previously been reported as lost or stolen or otherwise involved in a crime, as specified.

    b) Update AFS to record the current disposition of the firearm.

    c) Prior to the return of a firearm to a person requesting its return, the law enforcement agency shall ensure that the requesting person is eligible to possess firearms when the firearm is returned to the person, as provided.

    d) Upon return, donation, transfer or destruction of the firearm, a law enforcement agency shall update the AFS to reflect the change in disposition pursuant to the agency's firearm destruction policy.

5) Specifies that failure to retrieve the firearm at the end of a time period specified by the law enforcement agency shall result in the destruction of the firearm pursuant to the agency's firearm destruction policy. However, destruction of the firearm shall not be executed if the person who surrendered the firearm has submitted a Law Enforcement Release application for the return of their firearm via CFARS and the person is awaiting an eligibility determination.

6) Encourages law enforcement agencies that establish a voluntary firearm storage program to make family law advocates and veterans' outreach programs aware of the program.

7) Specifies that it does not limit a law enforcement agency's ability to accept firearms for voluntary temporary firearm storage pursuant to any other authority, program, or services the law enforcement agency offers.

8) Defines law enforcement agency as any police or sheriff's department.

9) Provides that specified laws restricting openly carrying an unloaded firearm, carrying an unloaded firearm, and delivering or transferring a firearm, do not apply to or affect the transportation of a firearm by a person to a law enforcement for the purposes of participating in a voluntary storage program, if

the person gives prior notice to the agency that they are transporting the firearm to the agency.

Comments

In 2019, the Legislature added a preventative feature to California firearm law via SB 172 (Portantino), Chapter 840, Statutes of 2019, which permitted the temporary transfer of a firearm without a dealer's participation to a person who is 18 years of age or older for safekeeping to prevent it from being used to attempt suicide by the transferor or another person that may gain access to it in the transferor's household. In 2023, another protective firearm transfer provision was added to California law via SB 368 (Portantino), Chapter 251, Statutes of 2023, which required firearm dealers to accept a firearm for storage if 1) the firearm is voluntarily and temporarily transferred to the licensee to prevent significant danger of personal injury to the transferor or others, 2) the licensee does not use the firearm for any purpose except storage, and 3) the duration of the transfer is limited to the amount of time reasonably necessary to prevent the harm.

After a custody battle resulted in the murder of her 9-year-old son, Pierce, by his father, Lesley Hu founded Pierce's Pledge, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing gun violence against children during volatile custody disputes by promoting the voluntary, temporary storage of firearms outside the home during situations of crisis or high conflict. In September 2025, the San Francisco Police Department, in partnership with Pierce's Pledge, launched a first-in-the-nation gun storage program in which San Francisco residents can store their firearms at any of the city's 10 police district stations for up to a year without paying any fees. According to the author, such programs are critical, especially in light of the fact that few dealers participate in voluntary storage pursuant to the programs described above. The author further states that:

> Although there is nothing preventing law enforcement from establishing a program to temporarily store firearms for the public–indeed, SFPD did and serves as the basis for this law–there is also nothing in the current law to provide guidance or best practices for local law enforcement seeking to implement the policy. This lack of guidance can lead to police departments being more hesitant to establish such a program within their own jurisdiction or lead to inconsistencies in the application of each program.

Accordingly, the author proposes this bill, which provides that a law enforcement agency may create a voluntary firearm storage program that allows a person to voluntarily transfer custody of their firearm to the agency for temporary

safekeeping to prevent firearm violence, suicide and other injury. The bill does not require agencies to establish such a program, but imposes several mandates on agencies that do, including that the agency have the capability to store a firearm for one year and that it provide clear instructions on the relevant transfer processes, including those already set forth in existing law, such as the process for requesting the return of a firearm.

Additionally, the bill requires a participating agency to provide clear information on the maximum duration that the agency may store a firearm and on the disposition of a firearm after the expiration of the storage period, including that the firearm must be destroyed, returned, or donated to a public or private nonprofit historical society, museum, or institutional collection. Participating agencies must also provide information on how individuals who no longer want their firearm can elect to have the firearm destroyed, donated or transferred to a firearm dealer or nonprohibited third party pursuant to specific procedures set forth in existing law.

This bill further requires that participating agencies make relevant updates to the Automated Firearms System and provides that failure to retrieve a firearm at the end of the storage period shall result in the destruction or donation of the firearm according to prescribed processes. Finally, the bill indemnifies participating agencies against liability for damage to firearms while they are being stored and clarifies that existing criminal penalties related to the transportation of firearms do not apply when the firearms are being transported for the purpose of being stored pursuant to this bill and the transporting party has given the agency prior notice.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/9/26)

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (source)
Association of Riverside County Chiefs of Police and Riverside Sheriff
Brady California
Brady United Against Gun Violence
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
California District Attorneys Association
Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fun
Moms Demand Action
Palm Springs Police Department
Peace Officers Research Association of California
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Marin Medical Society

Students Demand Action

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/9/26)

California Rifle and Pistol Association

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-2, 4/20/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Hadwick, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Castillo, Macedo, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis, Ward

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
6/10/26 16:58:17

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1976
Author: Wicks (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 5-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Allen, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar
NOES: Valladares, Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 49-19, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Streets and highways: pedestrian and bicycle facilities

SOURCE: Streets for All

DIGEST: This bill exempts the development of pedestrian malls from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and limits cities' and counties' ability to deny or delay pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, among other provisions.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 clarify that limits on community input meetings do not limit public participation required by federal regulation or funding requirements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows a city to "make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws." It is from this fundamental power (commonly called the police power) that local governments derive their authority to regulate behavior to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

2) Allows local agencies to adopt rules and regulations prohibiting entry to or exit from any street if it is necessary to implement the circulation element of its General Plan.

3) Enacts the Pedestrian Mall Law (PML) of 1960 to create a statewide process to build pedestrian malls in recognition that in certain areas in cities, and particularly in retail shopping areas, there is a need to separate pedestrian travel from vehicular travel, and that the separation is necessary to protect the public safety or otherwise to serve the public interest and convenience. Under PML, a city or county can establish a pedestrian mall to prohibit vehicular traffic on a pedestrian mall, and pay property owners for damages resulting from establishing a pedestrian mall from the general fund or via assessment.

4) Provides that, to establish a pedestrian mall, the city or county must adopt a resolution declaring its intent describing the pedestrian mall, notifying the public of the opportunity to protest the mall's establishment at a public hearing, and describing how the city or county will pay for damages to property owners. Not less than 90 days before the public hearing, the city or county must post the resolution on all affected streets and intersections and record the resolution with the county recorder. No later than 45 days before the public hearing, the city or county must mail the resolution to affected property owners. At the public hearing, the city or county must hear all objections, protests, and claims. If at least a majority of affected property owners protest the mall's establishment, the city or county cannot establish the mall, and must wait a year before it brings it up again.

5) Provides that property owners that might suffer damage due to the pedestrian mall can file a claim of damages to the city or county's clerk. At the public hearing, the city or county can allow for any damage claims. If there are unsettled claims, the city or county must direct that action to the relevant superior court in the nature of an eminent domain claim.

6) Provides that, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a lead agency determines whether a project is exempt from CEQA, or if it must do an initial study to determine if a project will have significant effects on the environment. If a project has no effect on the environment or effects that can be mitigated, the lead agency prepares a negative declaration (ND) or mitigated ND (MND). If the project will have significant impacts, the lead agency prepares an environmental impact report (EIR) to evaluate and propose mitigation measures for any effects on the environment, including impacts or likely impacts to land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and historic or aesthetic significance.

This bill:

1) Prohibits a city or county from holding a community input meeting to reconsider, delay, or prevent implementation of a proposed pedestrian or bicycle safety project if that project is included in an approved plan that will be implemented as part of the circulation element of the city or county's general plan, after that project has passed 90% design, as specified.

2) Provides that the limits to community input meetings shall not be construed to limit public participation otherwise required by law, including, but not limited to, a federal regulation or federal funding requirement.

3) Prohibits, at a public meeting when a contract is awarded or when county or city staff are directed to begin the construction of a pedestrian or bicycle safety project, or anytime thereafter, the bill would prohibit the city or county from terminating the project unless the city or county makes at least one specified finding at a public meeting.

4) Prohibits a city or county from requiring a petition to request the installation of a traffic-calming measure to contain the signatures of more than a majority of the total number of persons whose residences are located within 1,000 feet of the proposed traffic-calming measure, as specified.

5) Establishes a CEQA exemption for pedestrian malls meeting existing CEQA criteria for location, labor standards, and public transparency.

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "While many of California's transportation laws are well-intentioned, there are a number of laws and regulations that have become overly burdensome when implementing much-

needed bicycle and pedestrian-related safety measures and projects. Bicycle and pedestrian-related transportation projects have run into outdated regulations that discourage action, raise costs, and lead to delays. AB 1976 would update existing laws and regulations in order to provide more streamlined processes for projects that provide additional safety measures and accessibility for local communities to walk and live safely."

Not so fast. The state empowers local officials to make decisions that principally affect only their residents. This ensures that local governments can be responsive to the needs and concerns of their residents. Rather than leave decisions about how best to engage with the local community when it comes to bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, this bill imposes a statewide limitation to the steps local agencies can take when considering bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Specifically, the bill limits the types of public input meetings that local agencies can hold to gather community feedback once design is 90% complete. Additionally, if a local agency wants to ensure that a bicycle or pedestrian safety improvement shares broad community input, it can no longer institute a protest process that requires more than majority approval of affected residents. Finally, it limits when local agencies can stop pedestrian improvements already underway unless they make findings on the public benefits or fiscal constraints that justify terminating the project. This bill does this to limit the ways a local agency can try to misuse public input to interfere with bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements. However, it may also limit legitimate opportunities for the public to express their concerns with the proposed project. It is unclear whether the potential misuse of public input justifies state-imposed limitations to the public's ability to provide input on bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements. Local officials may be better suited to make determinations regarding the amount of public input on bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements in their jurisdictions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Streets for All (Source)
AARP
Active San Gabriel Valley
California Yimby
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
South Pas Active Streets
Spur

Sustainable Claremont
Transform
Walk San Francisco
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Contract Cities Association
California State Association of Counties
County of Fresno
League of California Cities
Rural County Representatives of California
Urban Counties of California (UCC)

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 49-19, 5/28/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Arambula, Bains, Boerner, Flora, Gabriel, Irwin, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/24/26 11:09:06

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1981
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Subsidized childcare: reimbursement rates: reporting

SOURCE: Child Care Providers United
SEIU California State Council
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930

DIGEST: This bill (1) revises requirements for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide updates to the Legislature regarding the implementation of reimbursement rates for subsidized child care based on the alternative methodology; (2) adopts several recommendations in the Single Rate Structure report.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 make a number of technical and substantive changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of child care and

development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age and their parents, including a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] § 10207 et seq.)

2) Establishes the Building a Better Early Care and Education System Act to promote quality, access, and stability in the early care and education system by authorizing an appropriate unit of family child care providers to choose a provider organization to act as their unit's representative on all matters specified under the Act. (WIC § 10420 et seq.)

3) States it is the intent of the Legislature to use an alternative methodology, as defined, to inform the setting of reimbursement rates for subsidized child care. Provides that reimbursement rates are subject to agreement and codification by the Legislature. (WIC §10227.6(a) and (b))

4) Requires CDSS, in collaboration with the California Department of Education, to develop and conduct an alternative methodology. Establishes a timeline for the development of an alternative methodology, including reporting requirements. (WIC § 10227.6)

This Bill:

1) Makes various findings and declarations.

2) Changes the sunset date for CDSS to provide quarterly updates on the implementation of the new reimbursement rates set under the alternative methodology from July 1, 2027, to July 1, 2028.

3) Requires CDSS to provide the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, rather than the Legislature, with CDSS' anticipated timeline for transitioning from the rates that are in effect on July 1, 2025, to the new rates if the new reimbursement rates do not take effect on July 1, 2025.

4) Adds that it is the intent of the Legislature for CDSS to use values or selection points that reflect the actual, established costs of providing care when updating the alternative methodology, as required by the triennial federal Child Care Development Fund plan.

5) Requires CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Education, when establishing new reimbursement rates using an a single-rate structure informed by an alternative methodology, to the extent it is consistent with the

approved Child Care and Development Fund state plan, to do all of the following:

a) Vary rates based on geographic regions; provider type; regulatory and statutory requirements; time considerations; and child age; as specified.

b) Include an enhanced rate for nonstandard hours of care, enhanced inclusion rate, and other enhanced rates, as determined through the annual Budget process.

c) Ensure that the reimbursement rate for a specific child, payable to an individual provider, includes all enhanced rates for which the child is eligible, and that are for services the child is receiving from the individual provider or contractor.

d) Ensure that base payment rates are based on a child's maximum certified hours of care with an individual provider, regardless of attendance.

6) Authorizes CDSS to implement and administer this act by all-county letters, child care bulletins, or similar written instructions until regulations are adopted. Specifies that these instructions shall have the same force and effect as regulations.

7) States this act is an urgency statue necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

Background

Purpose of the Bill. According to the author, "Child care providers are the backbone of our early education system and a critical part of California's economy, yet too many of these mostly women- and minority-owned small businesses are barely scraping by. AB 1981 is about ensuring providers are paid based on the true cost of delivering care. This bill ensures continued transparency and accountability by requiring ongoing quarterly updates from CDSS on the transition to the new reimbursement rate system until it is fully implemented.

"After nearly two decades of unfulfilled commitments to reform child care rates, the Legislature deserves clear accountability and transparency from the Administration on when these changes will finally take effect. Paying providers fairly will help stabilize the child care workforce, keep providers' doors open, and ensure families can access the care they need. This is especially critical as the federal government implements the work requirements included in H.R. 1, and

other policies that raise the cost of living for California families. Now more than ever, working parents need reliable child care to remain employed and support their families."

Subsidized Child Care. California's subsidized child care system is designed to provide assistance for income eligible parents and guardians who are working, in training, seeking employment, incapacitated, or in need of respite. The state's largest subsidized child care programs are General Child Care, Alternative Payment, CalWORKs Child Care, and the California State Preschool Program.

General Child Care provides care through contracted centers and family child care home education networks. Alternative Payment provides vouchers to families, which they can use to obtain child care at a center, family child care home, or from a license-exempt provider. Families are income eligible for General Child Care or Alternative Payment if their household income is below 85% of the State Median Income, depending on family size. In 2025–26, a family of four is income eligible if their annual family income is at or below $108,237.

CalWORKs Child Care provides vouchers for families to use at a center, family child care home, or with a license-exempt provider. Families are eligible for CalWORKs Child Care from when they are enrolled in CalWORKs until 24 months after a family has been off cash aid. CalWORKs is organized into three stages. Stage 1 and Stage 2 are considered entitlement programs, meaning anyone who is eligible and has a qualifying need must receive services. Stage 3 Child Care is dependent on the availability of funding and is not an entitlement program.

The California State Preschool Program provides care for three- and four-year-olds at local educational agencies and some community-based centers. Current law additionally allows California State Preschool Programs to serve two-year-olds through June 30, 2027. Families are eligible for the California State Preschool Program if their income based on family size falls below 100% of the State Median Income. In 2025–26, a family of four is income eligible if their annual family income is at or below $127,338. California State Preschool Programs are under the purview of the Senate Education Committee.

History of Reimbursement Rate Reform. AB 131 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021) established the state's efforts to move to a single reimbursement rate structure. The first was a Joint Labor Management Committee, established between the State and Child Care Providers United (CCPU), the family child care providers union. The Joint Labor Management Committee was tasked with developing recommendations for a single reimbursement rate structure that addresses quality standards for equity and accessibility. The second effort was the

Rate and Quality Stakeholder Workgroup, established by CDSS in consultation with the California Department of Education. The Workgroup was tasked with assessing the methodology for establishing reimbursement rates and the existing quality standards for child care and preschool programs. AB 131 also increased rates for all contractors.

AB 116 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 41, Statutes of 2023) required CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Education, to develop and conduct an alternative methodology for setting reimbursement rates. CDSS contracted with Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies to assist in designing and implementing an alternative methodology process. SB 140 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 193, Statutes of 2023) added a timeline for adoption of a new alternative methodology, requiring CDSS to submit information on the alternative methodology to the federal Administration for Children and Families in the Child Care and Development Fund state plan by July 1, 2024. Additionally, the timeline in SB 140 required CDSS to provide the Legislature with an outline for planned implementation of the single rate structure utilizing the alternative methodology within 60 days of federal approval, upon which the Legislature shall have 30 days to review and provide feedback for implementation of these policies.

SB 163 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 73, Statutes of 2024) required CDSS to provide the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees with a report that outlines the implementation components for the approved single rate structure, including the department's plan to set new reimbursement rates under the alternative methodology by no later than July 1, 2025, and the estimated costs and estimated timelines associated with implementation. SB 163 required CDSS to provide quarterly updates on implementation, including any changes to the information provided in the report. SB 163 provided that the Governor and Legislature shall, by no later than July 1, 2025, establish reimbursement rates based on the alternative methodology, and if new reimbursement rates do not take effect, CDSS shall provide the Legislature with a timeline for transitioning from the rates in effect on July 1, 2025, to the new rates.

SB 120 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 13, Statutes of 2025) revised the sunset date for quarterly updates on the implementation of the new reimbursement rates to July 1, 2027, and stated the intent of the Legislature to cease using a regional market rate survey and instead use an alternative methodology beginning July 1, 2025. In December 2025, the Joint Labor Management Committee published a final report with joint recommendations for a single rate structure. The final report additionally included State recommendations and CCPU recommendations that were not jointly agreed upon. This bill would

adopt several of these recommendations. The recommendations to be adopted through this bill include varying rates based on geographic regions, provider type, time-of-day considerations, and child age considerations; and including an enhanced rate for nonstandard hours of care, enhanced inclusion rate, and other enhanced rates, as determined through the annual Budget process.

According to the July 2025 Update to the Report to the Legislature on Implementation of the Single Rate Structure, CDSS projects that, upon finalization of a single rate structure, a minimum of two years will be needed to complete the necessary automation and program implementation activities required to implement the new structure. However, this timeline is subject to change based on various factors, such as implementation of the Joint Labor Management Committee joint recommendations, which will require statutory changes. Further, the Memorandum of Understanding between the State and CCPU states that a single rate structure will become operable upon the parties reaching agreement on the specific rates. This bill would extend the sunset for quarterly updates on the implementation of new reimbursement rates by one year to July 1, 2028.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 120 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 13, Statutes of 2025), a budget trailer bill, revised the sunset date for quarterly updates on the implementation of the new reimbursement rates to July 1, 2027, and stated the intent of the Legislature to cease using a regional market rate survey and instead use an alternative methodology beginning July 1, 2025, among other things.

SB 163 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 73, Statutes of 2024), a budget trailer bill, required CDSS to publish a report that outlines the implementation timeline for the approved single rate structure, including a plan to set new reimbursement rates under the alternative methodology by no later than July 1, 2025, and required CDSS to provide quarterly updates on implementation. SB 163 provided that the Governor and Legislature shall, by no later than July 1, 2025, establish reimbursement rates based on the alternative methodology, and if new reimbursement rates do not take effect, CDSS shall provide the Legislature with a timeline for transitioning from the rates in effect on July 1, 2025, to the new rates.

SB 140 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 193, Statutes of 2023), a budget trailer bill, established various intermediate deadlines toward the submission of the Child Care and Development Fund state plan with necessary information to support use of a single rate structure utilizing the alternative methodology.

AB 116 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 41, Statutes of 2023), a budget trailer bill, stated the intent of the Legislature to utilize an alternative methodology, as defined, to inform the setting of reimbursement rates for subsidized child care. AB 116 required CDSS, in collaboration with the California Department of Education, to develop and conduct an alternative methodology.

AB 131 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021), a budget trailer bill, transferred administration of child care and development programs from the California Department of Education to CDSS. AB 131 also established the Joint Labor Management Committee and Rate and Quality Stakeholder Workgroup, among other things.

AB 378 (Limón, Chapter 385, Statutes of 2019) authorized family childcare home providers to form, join, and participate in the activities of a provider organization (union) of their own choosing for the purpose of representing them and bargaining on matters regarding the terms and conditions of their employment.

Comments

This bill seeks to continue transparent communication to the Legislature regarding the transition to a new single rate structure by extending quarterly reporting requirements by one year. This bill would adopt several single rate structure recommendations published in the Joint Labor Management Committee's final report to codify rate-setting principles in preparation of reimbursement rate negotiations—to determine the actual percentages and/or dollar amounts to be paid—and implementation of the new rate structure. The report was published by the Joint Labor Management Committee, comprised of representatives from CDSS, the California Department of Education, and CCPU. The communication and proactive implementation goals of this bill seem to align with the Legislature's years-long efforts to adopt a single rate structure using an alternative methodology.

[NOTE: See the Senate Human Services Committee analysis for additional background on this bill.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, "Unknown, potential ongoing General Fund costs for child care reimbursement rates to the extent the bill's provisions would impact the development of the new rate structure required under current law."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Child Care Providers United (co-sponsor)
SEIU California State Council (co-sponsor)
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930 (co-sponsor)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Afl-cio
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Black Ece
CA Legislative Women's Caucus
California Child Care Resource and Referral Network
Child Action
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Child Care Law Center
Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Early Edge California
Etsy
Everychild California
First 5 California
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist of America, INC.
Hillel of San Diego
Jcc/federation of San Luis Obispo
Jcrc Bay Area
Jcrc Santa Barbara County
Jewish California (formerly Jpac)
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Democratic Club of Marin
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jfcs East Bay
Jfcs Long Beach and Orange County
Jvs Bay Area
Jvs Socal
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Unified School District

National Council of Jewish Women -sf
Unidosus

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Hadwick, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Wicks

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 14:09:18

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1983
Author: Blanca Rubio (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Continuing care retirement communities: repayable contracts

SOURCE: Erickson Senior Living

DIGEST: This bill adds sequential order method as a type of repayable contract that may be entered into between a Continuing Care Retirement Community and a person entering residential care.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 make technical and substantive changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act to provide for the licensure and regulation of residential care facilities for the elderly as a separate category within the existing licensing structure of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). (Health and Safety Code [HSC] § 1569 et seq.)

2) Provides for the certification and regulation of Continuing Care Retirement Communities by CDSS. (HSC §1770 et seq.)

3) Requires an applicant for a certificate of authority to operate a Continuing Care Retirement Community to obtain appropriate licenses for the entire facility, including residential care facility for the elderly and/or skilled nursing facility licenses. (HSC §1771.5)

4) Defines the following terms related to Continuing Care Retirement Communities:

   a) "Continuing care contract" means a contract that includes a continuing care promise made in exchange for an entrance fee, the payment of periodic charges, or both types of payments. A continuing care contract may consist of one agreement or a series of agreements, as specified.

   b) "Entrance fee" means the sum of any initial, amortized, or deferred transfer of consideration made or promised to be made by, or on behalf of, a person entering into a continuing care contract for the purpose of ensuring care or related services pursuant to that continuing care contract or as full or partial payment for the promise to provide care for the term of the continuing care contract.

   c) "Repayable contract" means a continuing care contract that includes a promise to repay all or a portion of an entrance fee that is conditioned upon reoccupancy or resale of the unit previously occupied by the resident. A repayable contract shall not be considered subject to refund reserve requirements, provided that this conditional promise of repayment is not referred to by the applicant or provider as a "refund". A provider may repay all or a portion of an entrance fee that is conditioned upon resale of the unit before the resale of the unit. The repayment of an entrance fee before the resale of the unit shall not cause any other entrance fee to be subject to refund reserve requirements, provided that the provider does not promise or represent intent to make this type of early repayment, or indicate that the provider has a practice of making this type of early repayment. (HSC § 1771)

5) Requires a continuing care contract to contain numerous specified elements, including, but not limited to, the duration of the contract, the list of services that will be made available to the resident as required to provide the appropriate level of care, an itemization of the services included in the monthly fee and services available for an extra charge, and others. Further requires additional information and disclosures to be attached to the continuing care contract. (HSC §1788)

6) Establishes requirements regarding the cancellation of a continuing care contract. (HSC §1788.2)

7) Requires a lump-sum payment that is conditioned upon resale of a unit to be paid to the resident within 14 calendar days after resale of the unit. Requires that this payment not be considered, characterized, or advertised as a refund. Requires any balance of the lump sum owed that has not been paid to the resident or their estate within 180 days after termination of a repayable contract to accrue interest, as specified. (HSC §1788.4)

8) Establishes reporting and reserve requirements for any provider offering a refundable contract. (HSC §1792.6)

This bill:

1) Defines "entrance fee refund" as the return of all or a portion of the initial entrance fee paid by a resident to a provider, which is required to be paid back to the resident or the resident's estate upon the termination or cancellation of a refundable contract.

2) Defines "lump sum payment" as a one-time reimbursement of all or a portion of an entrance fee owed by a provider to a resident or the resident's estate in the event of cancellation, termination, or death.

3) Amends the definition of "repayable contract" to mean either a repayable conditioned on resale contract or a repayable in sequential order contract.

4) Defines "repayable conditioned on resale contract" to mean a continuing care contract that includes a promise to repay all or a portion of an entrance fee that is conditioned upon resale or reoccupancy of the unit previously occupied by the resident.

5) Defines "repayable in sequential order contract" as a continuing care contract that includes a promise to repay all or a portion of an entrance fee based strictly on the sequential order in which repayable contracts are terminated. Requires a provider to repay entrance fees solely in the sequential order in which the contracts were terminated, and prohibits a provider from repaying all or a portion of an entrance fee before the resident's sequential number is reached. Requires a provider to provide the resident, their estate, or other appropriate party with written notice of their sequential number on the repayment log at the time a contract is terminated, as specified. Requires the provider to ensure the full repayment amount and any applicable interest is kept in the sequential repayment account until the payment can be made if the resident, their estate, or

other appropriate party is unable to receive the repayment when their sequential number is reached. Requires the provider to keep records adequate to show which moneys have been designated for each resident and the moneys to be held in the account until the resident, their estate, or other appropriate party can receive the payment.

6) Defines the following terms related to repayable in sequential order contracts:

   a) Defines "sequential order method" or "sequential order" to mean the repayment of entrance fees in the order in which repayable contracts are terminated. Provides that the provider shall assign each terminated contract a sequential repayment number, to be paid from a sequential repayment account funded by entrance fees received from any reoccupied residential living units with sequential order contracts. Provides that, each time a unit is reoccupied, the repayment account shall be credited with an amount equal to the repayment owed to the unit's prior resident. Provides that, when the funds in the repayment account are sufficient to repay the next terminated contract in sequential order, the provider shall issue the repayment within 14 days.

   b) Defines "sequential repayment account" as a separately accounted for financial bank account established and maintained by a provider for the exclusive purpose of funding repayments of entrance fees under repayable in sequential order contracts. Requires the account to indicate that the moneys are held for the exclusive benefit of the residents or their estates. Requires the money to remain separate, intact, and free from any liability the provider incurs. Prohibits the sequential repayment account from being deemed a refund reserve or subject to refund reserve requirements.

7) Adds repayable contract language to the list of requirements a continuing care contract must contain, where only refundable contract language exists in current law.

8) Requires the policy or terms of a continuing care contract for refunds or repayments due to cancellations to specify whether repayment is conditioned upon resale of the unit or subject to the sequential order method.

9) Requires the policy or terms of a repayable in sequential order contract to state that repayment of sequential order contracts shall be paid from a sequential repayment account funded by entrance fees received from the sale of residential living units with repayable in sequential order contracts.

10) Requires the policy or terms of a repayable in sequential order contract to include a disclosure with specified information.

11) Requires, for repayable in sequential order contracts, the full lump sum owed, including any interest accrued, to be paid within 14 calendar days after sufficient funds exist in the sequential repayment account to satisfy the contract's assigned sequential repayment number. Requires a provider that offers or maintains any repayable in sequential order contracts to establish and maintain a sequential repayment account for the exclusive purpose of funding repayments owed under those contracts.

12) Clarifies the provider shall be responsible for funding all accrued interest.

13) Provides that, for repayable in sequential order contracts, the accrual of interest, as specified, shall not alter the assigned sequential repayment number or priority of payment. Requires interest to accrue beginning 180 days after termination of the contract, regardless of whether sufficient funds exist in the sequential repayment account. Requires payment of both principal and accrued interest to occur only in accordance with the sequential order method. Makes this provision apply only to repayable in sequential order contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2027.

14) Provides that the accrued interest for repayable in sequential order contracts shall be repayable from the sequential repayment account at the time the terminated contract reaches its assigned repayment number. Requires the provider to ensure that the sequential repayment account is funded in an amount sufficient to satisfy both principal and accrued interest prior to issuing repayment. Makes this provision apply only to repayable in sequential order contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2027.

15) Requires providers offering repayable in sequential order contracts to disclose specified information in the continuing care contract.

Background

Purpose of this Bill. According to the author, "AB 1983 addresses delays and uncertainty in the repayment of entrance fees to residents of Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). Under current law, refunds are tied to the re-occupancy of a specific unit, which can leave residents and their families waiting months or even years for repayment. The bill authorizes a sequential repayment method, in which refunds are issued based on when residents vacate rather than when a unit is resold. This approach creates a more predictable, transparent, and

equitable system, increasing fairness for residents and their families while giving providers flexibility to adopt a system that meets the needs of a growing older adult population."

Continuing Care Retirement Communities. Continuing Care Retirement Communities offer people 60 years of age and older a full range of long-term care options that include independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing care. This model allows senior residents to move from independence to high levels of care without leaving the community in which they reside. Typically, this is provided in a campus-like community setting, usually for a resident's lifetime, and always for at least one year. Continuing Care Retirement Communities must be licensed with CDSS as a residential care facility for the elderly, and must be licensed by the California Department of Public Health if the campus includes a skilled nursing facility. As of June 2025, there were 109 licensed Continuing Care Retirement Communities in California with a total capacity of 34,867.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities require residents to sign a contract that sets forth the range of services, sometimes at an additional cost, depending on the type of contract, to be provided by the Continuing Care Retirement Communities to the resident. Services include housing, residential services, and nursing care. Most Continuing Care Retirement Communities require substantial entrance fees, along with monthly fees. These fees can vary significantly and depend on the level of services included in the contract and other factors associated with location, exclusivity, business plan variations, and more. Entrance fees can range from $40,000 to more than $2 million depending on the community, size and type of residence, location, and contract structure. According to AARP, the average entrance fee was about $402,000 in 2021. Residents also pay monthly fees, which were an average of $3,555 in 2021 and rise about 2% per year.

Repayable and Refundable Contracts. Continuing Care Retirement Communities often offer contracts that enable a resident, or their estate in the event of the resident's death, to receive some or all of the initial entrance fee when the contract is terminated. In California, these contracts are classified as either "repayable" or "refundable." Repayable contracts include a promise to repay all or a portion of an entrance fee, conditioned upon the reoccupancy or resale of the unit that was previously occupied by the resident to whom the entrance fee is owed. Refundable contracts include a promise by the provider to refund the entrance fee within a specified time frame that is not conditioned upon re-occupancy or resale of the unit. The key difference between repayable and refundable contracts is the source of the funds; repayable contracts generate the required funds as a result of reselling the resident's unit, while refundable contracts appropriate funds from a reserve

account. Current law requires that residents be made aware of whether their contract is refundable or repayable at the time the resident signs the contract.

This bill pertains to repayable contracts. This bill adds a new type of repayable contract based on the sequential order in which repayable contracts are terminated. Under the sequential order method, a provider would assign each terminated contract with a sequential payment number and establish a designated sequential repayment account from which the owner of a unit with a sequential order contract will be repaid. This bill gives Continuing Care Retirement Communities the option to offer sequential order repayable contracts while retaining the option to offer "exact unit" repayable contracts or refundable contracts already permitted by law, which would be renamed as "repayable conditioned on resale" contracts.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2033 (Choi, 2018) would have revised the definition of a repayable contract to include a contract that includes a promise to repay all or a portion of an entrance fee on a sequential basis from an entrance fee repayment pool that is funded by the resale of units in the pool at the facility, as they become available. AB 2033 was referred to the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee but never heard.

AB 853 (Choi, 2017) would have expanded the definition of a repayable contract to include a promise to repay all or a portion of an entrance fee based on the sequential order of termination of all repayable contracts at the facility previously occupied by the resident. AB 853 was referred to the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee but never heard.

SB 939 (Monning, Chapter 112, Statutes of 2016) required that continuing care contracts that contain lump sum contract termination payments conditioned on resale of the unit must meet a series of requirements and timelines, must pay interest after a specified period of vacancy, and must meet other requirements.

SB 475 (Monning, 2015) would have required continuing care contracts which condition lump sum contract termination payments on resale of the unit to meet a series of requirements and timelines, to pay interest after a specified period of vacancy, and to meet other requirements. The bill would also have created a complaint process for residents if the repayment had not been made within 12 months. SB 475 was vetoed by the Governor.

Comments

This bill seeks to create a new type of repayable contract based on sequential order for Continuing Care Retirement Communities. According to the sponsor, allowing

the sequential order method would be in the best interest of the provider and the resident or their family, as the sequential order method allows for more transparency and certainty of repayment timelines. Under the sequential order method, repayment would be issued in order of who has been waiting the longest rather than based on the sale of a specific unit. This bill would make the sequential order method optional for providers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, "The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates General Fund costs of $185,000 in 2026-27 and $181,000 ongoing thereafter to review contracts and create an additional repayment method to review within contracts, as well as to provide training to staff on these contract types."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Erickson Senior Living (sponsor)
California Assisted Living Association
Leadingage California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 11:57:10

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1985
Author: Irwin (D) and Pacheco (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Student health: athletic coaches and trainers: mental health training

SOURCE: Sarah Shulze Foundation

DIGEST: This bill requires, by July 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, the campuses of the California State University (CSU), the California Community Colleges (CCCs), and each private postsecondary educational institution and independent institution of higher education that receives state financial assistance, and requests of the campuses of the University of California (UC), a coach of an athletic program—including an assistant coach or trainer—to complete a training on student mental health, as specified, as a condition of the coach's employment or volunteer service.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC; and grants the Regents full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements

around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property and the purchase of materials, goods and services. (Article IX § 9 of the California Constitution)

2) Establishes UC, CSU, and the CCCs as the three segments of public higher education and defines "independent institutions of higher education" as nonpublic higher education institutions that grant undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, or both, and that are formed as nonprofit corporations in California and are accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). For purposes of any code or statute, a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the USDE as of January 1, 2025, shall retain that recognition until July 1, 2029, provided that the accrediting agency continues to operate in substantially the same manner as it did on January 1, 2025. (Education Code (EC) § 66010, et seq.)

3) Requires the governing board of each community college district (CCD), the Trustees of the CSU, the Board of Directors of the College of Law, San Francisco, and the Regents of the UC to, within existing resources, adopt and implement a rape and sexual assault education program for, and ensure maximum feasible participation of, students and student services professional staff members or student affairs professional staff members at each of their respective campuses or other facilities. (EC § 67391)

4) Finds and declares that colleges should provide special sexual assault seminars for all athletic coaches and administrators and members of athletic teams, and states that these seminars should take place during a student athlete orientation program or prior to the first team meeting. (EC § 67390)

This bill:

1) Requires, by July 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, each campus of the CSU, each CCC, and each private postsecondary educational institution and independent institution of higher education that receives state financial assistance, and requests of the UC, a coach in an athletic program—including an assistant coach or trainer—to complete a training on student mental health, as specified, as a condition of the person's employment or volunteer service.

2) Requires the specified training to cover suicide prevention education, at a minimum, and permits the specified trainings to cover mental health first aid education.

3) Permits that the specified training be provided by an entity that offers free, online, or other types of training courses.

4) Requires that this legislation be known, and may be cited, as Sarah Shulze's Law.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "There is currently no standard in state law that requires athletic coaches at college and universities to be trained on mental health awareness and best practices for their student-athletes. Without a state standard, individual institutions and campuses are left to create their own standards if they voluntarily train coaches on mental health. This leaves room for potentially no standard at all, inconsistent implementation if there is a policy, and generally a lack of oversight from the state to ensure coaches are receiving training on the most up-to-date and evidence-based best practices."

Slate of bills from 2025-26 Regular Session promoting wellness and improved mental health for pupil athletes. This bill, along with AB 1626 (Gabriel of 2026) and AB 1665 (Pacheco of 2026), recognizes the unique role that athletic coaches have in young athletes' lives and aims to equip coaches with the tools and the understanding so that they can appropriately respond and provide support to young men and women during an age when this support is critical. This bill aims to provide mental health training for athletic coaches at the collegiate level, and AB 1626 (Gabriel of 2026) and AB 1665 (Pacheco of 2026) address providing mental health training for athletic coaches in K-12 schools and youth organizations.

Mental health challenges on college campuses and for college athletes. Historical data suggests the prevalence of mental health issues among college students nationally has increased over the long term. More recent data suggests the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this trend. Since the onset of the pandemic, several studies have found further increases in a variety of student mental health issues. For example, a 2024-25 study from the Healthy Minds Network, which is a research organization focused on the mental health of young adults, reports that college students continue to report poor mental health, with more than one in three students saying they experience moderate anxiety or depression. Data from the most recent survey found that only 36% of college students are thriving, reporting high levels of success in relationships, self-esteem, purpose, and optimism, down slightly from 38% the previous year.

For college athletes in particular, the pressures of balancing their academics and the time spent traveling, practicing, and competing in competitions are draining and leave many student athletes overwhelmed. Moreover, with more colleges moving into conferences that are not geographically close to the campuses, college athletes are traveling farther than ever as part of their regular season. This bill requires training on student mental health for athletic coaches, with the intent for coaches to be equipped to recognize signs of mental illness and behavioral distress in students participating in athletic programs. The UC has indicated that they already mandate their athletic coaches to take the trainings required by this bill.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1626 (Gabriel of 2026) would establish training content areas, related to behavioral and mental health challenges specific to pupil athletes, to be used for trainings for coaches of interscholastic athletic programs, non-interscholastic athletic programs, and youth sports organizations. This bill requires the CDE, by September 1, 2027, to identify an existing training or develop a model youth athletics behavioral and mental health training, as specified, for coaches in youth sports organizations. AB 1626 is currently on the Assembly Floor.

AB 1665 (Pacheco of 2026) would require, commencing July 1, 2027: (1) a coach for an interscholastic athletic program at a high school that is a member of the California Interscholastic Federation to complete an initial training, and subsequent training every two years, on a coaching education and training program on mental health, and (2) that a local educational agency (LEA) ensure a coach of a non-interscholastic athletic program complete an initial training, and subsequent training every two years, covering sudden cardiac arrest and youth athletics behavioral and mental health, if the LEA chooses to offer a non-interscholastic athletic program. AB 1665 is currently on the Senate Floor.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office estimates minor, ongoing Proposition 98 General Funds costs for community colleges to identify and provide the required training, with the understanding they would opt to offer an existing or free training that is available, or an existing training that may already be offered to mental health employees that satisfies the requirement. However, to the extent a community college decides to develop its

own training, the Proposition 98 General Fund costs could range from the tens of thousands to the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

- The bill's costs for CSU and UC are expected to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Sarah Shulze Foundation (source)
California Alliance of Caregivers
California Behavioral Health Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness
University of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Schultz

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:47:33

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1996
Author: Bonta (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council

SOURCE: Grace INC

DIGEST: This bill establishes the California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council and requires the council to create benchmarks and metrics that measure California's progress toward reducing child poverty by 50% in 10 years.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes, in federal law, the Promise Neighborhood program, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations, or institutions of higher education, which, together with partners, develop and implement plans to significantly improve outcomes of children living in a given neighborhood. (20 United States Code section 7274)

2) Establishes the "California Cradle-to-Career Data Systems Act," which expresses legislative intent to build a data system that services students and families by identifying and tracking predictive indicators to enable parents,

teachers, health and human services providers, and policymakers to provide appropriate interventions and supports to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students. (Education Code section 10850 et seq.)

3) Establishes the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program to provide cash assistance and other social services for low-income families through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Under CalWORKs, each county provides assistance through a combination of state, county, and federal TANF funds. (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 11200 et seq.)

4) Establishes the CalFresh program to administer the provision of federal SNAP benefits to families and individuals meeting specified criteria. (WIC section 18900 et seq.)

5) Requires the Governor to create an Interagency Council on Homelessness. (WIC section 8257 et seq.)

6) Makes findings and declarations establishing the Homeless Youth Act of 2018 to improve prevention and early intervention services for youth at risk of experiencing homelessness and increase access to services for youth experiencing homelessness. (WIC section 8259)

7) Requires CDSS to work with the State Department of Education to maximize participation in the federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children program (WIC section18901.57)

8) Requires public assistance program recipients to be supplied with information regarding their potential eligibility for the federal and California Earned Income Tax Credit, Young Child Tax Credit and Foster Youth Tax Credit. (Revenue and Taxation Code section 19854)

This bill:

1) Makes findings and declarations about the impact of child poverty and the intent of the Legislature to reduce child poverty by 50% within 10 years.

2) Establishes the California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (Council) within the California Department of Social Services.

3) Requires CDSS to provide staff for and administer the Council.

4) Requires the Council to convene no later than April 1, 2027.

5) Requires CDSS to assist the task force in carrying out its duties to the extent funding is available.

6) Requires the Council to be co-chaired by both the Secretary of California Health and Human Services or their designee and the Director of Social Services or their designee.

7) Requires the Council to be made up of 19 members, as follows:

   a) Fifteen members appointed by the Governor including executive-level representatives from each of the following:

      i) CDSS.

      ii) The State Department of Health Care Services.

      iii) The State Department of Education.

      iv) The State Board of Education.

      v) The State Department of Finance.

      vi) The California Interagency Council on Homelessness.

      vii) The California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

      viii) A county organization focused on ending child poverty, including, but not limited to, the First 5 Association of California or a County Children's Cabinet.

      ix) A county or regional human services agency.

      x) A statewide nonprofit focused on ending child poverty.

      xi) A California Promise Neighborhood or similar place-based initiative.

      xii) An organization representing immigrant families.

   b) Two individuals with lived experience of child or family poverty.

   c) One youth representative who is 16 to 25 years of age, inclusive.

   d) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

e) Two members appointed by the President pro Tempore of the Senate.

8) Requires members of the Council to serve without compensation except for reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses.

9) States that a vacancy occurs upon the resignation, death, removal, or failure of a member to attend three consecutive meetings without good cause.

10) Permits an appointing authority to remove a member for misconduct, neglect of duty, chronic nonattendance, change of employment, conflict of interest, or conduct inconsistent with the mission of the council and requires the vacancy to be filled by the original appointing authority within 60 days.

11) Prohibits a vacant seat from counting toward a quorum.

12) Requires the Council to determine where there is overlap of existing child poverty reduction or child welfare commissions and reports and develop a comprehensive plan for reducing redundancy. The plan shall include annual benchmarks to reduce statewide child poverty by 50% within 10 years.

13) Requires the Council to determine considerations to evaluate whether a policy proposal, budget provisions, or pending legislation increases or decreases child poverty. Policy proposals include, but are not limited to, expansion of refundable tax credits, guaranteed income or cash plus supports, affordable and subsidized childcare, housing and homelessness prevention, nutrition programs, behavioral health supports, workforce, and living wage pathways.

14) Requires the Council to determine considerations to evaluate whether a policy proposal, budget provision, or pending legislation increases or decreases administrative burdens for families with children.

15) Requires the Council to, at least once per year, apply the considerations to at least one policy proposal budget provision, or pending piece of legislation that requires interagency or multiagency collaboration.

16) Requires the Council to post the application of the considerations required by the preceding point on a platform of its choosing.

17) Allow the Council to apply the considerations to other relevant policy proposals, budget provisions, and pending pieces of legislation. The council may post the application of considerations on a platform of its choosing, including an existing department internet website.

18) Requires the Council to, at least once per year, apply the considerations to least one interagency or multiagency state program or administrative process that can be modified to reduce barriers to access and improve equity for children and families.

19) Requires the Council to post the application of the considerations required by the preceding point on a platform of its choosing.

20) Allow the Council to apply the considerations to other state programs or administrative processes. The council may post the application of considerations on a platform of its choosing, including an existing department internet website.

21) Requires the Council to meet at least quarterly.

22) Requires the Council to submit both of the following reports to the Legislature:

    a) Comprehensive recommendations by March 1, 2028.

    b) A progress report by January 1, 2030.

23) Requires all the reports listed above to be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

24) Makes the bill inoperative on July 1, 2030 and repealed as of January 1, 2031.

Background

According to the author, "AB 1996 is grounded in the principle that every child in California deserves to grow up with stability, dignity, and access to the resources necessary to thrive. Yet today, nearly one in five children lives in a household struggling to afford basic necessities like housing, food, and healthcare—placing immense strain on families and limiting opportunities for youth through no fault of their own. As pandemic-era supports have expired and federal cuts loom, families are being asked to do more with less, and the consequences are immediate and real.

"The impacts are visible every day: missed meals, delayed care, preventable health inequities, and chronic stress that disproportionately burden communities already facing systemic barriers. While California has demonstrated that targeted investments can reduce child poverty, the state currently lacks a coordinated structure to sustain and build on that progress. AB 1996 addresses this gap by establishing a Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council to promote accountability, align policy efforts, and ensure that the needs of children and families remain central in budget and legislative decisions. By setting a clear goal of reducing child poverty

by 50 percent over the next 10 years, this bill advances an equity-driven, data-informed approach to improving outcomes for children statewide."

California's Safety Net. The majority of California's safety net programs have stringent and unique eligibility criteria with different application and access points, which make programs difficult to navigate and attain for families who need support, especially when compounded with the chronic stress of living in poverty.[1] This bill will require the Council to consider whether policy proposals increase or decrease these types of administrative burdens for families with children.

Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force. AB 1520 *(Burke, Chapter 415, Statutes of 2017)* created the Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force (Task Force) to identify comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing deep childhood poverty and reducing child poverty in California. As a part of this effort, the Task Force examined strategies to better coordinate services, noting that families in poverty often have an array of service needs, but linking families with support services can be challenging due to disparate eligibility rules across programs and families' lack of time to find and apply for services they could be eligible for. The Task Force drew from the research support of Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality as well as state departments and stakeholders. It also convened meetings, discussions, and subcommittees that created a list of recommendations to reduce child poverty by 50%. The final Task Force report, the End Child Poverty Plan, was published in 2018 and notes that:

> Recommendations to address both immediate and long-term needs include increased tax credits, larger CalWORKs grants, expanded Medi-Cal eligibility and more child care and early education access. The Task Force reported that the phase-in of their recommendations would cost $1.4 billion in 2019–20, $3.5 billion in 2020–21, and $5.6 billion in 2021–22 but would ultimately create $12 billion in benefits to state and local government as children exit poverty and become successful adults. According to the End Child Poverty California coalition, 41 of the 43 recommendations have now been partially or fully implemented. It should be noted that these estimates are based on the Medi-Cal and CalFresh program before changes in federal law made by H.R. 1 (Public Law 119-21), which will make it harder for families to remain eligible for these programs.

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[1] Francis, L., DePriest, K., Wilson, M., & Gross, D. Child Poverty, Toxic Stress, and Social Determinants of Health: Screening and Care Coordination. Online journal of issues in nursing, 2018. https://doi.org/10.3912/OJIN.Vol23No03Man02

This bill creates a Council that would have a similar mission to the Task Force but be a permanent entity housed in the Health and Human Services Agency. It will also create considerations that can be used to determine whether a policy proposal will increase or decrease childhood poverty and the administrative burden on families in poverty.

Federal Promise Neighborhoods. One recommendation of the Task Force was to create 20 new Promise Neighborhoods throughout California. Promise Neighborhoods are a federally funded effort to provide holistic, place-based approaches to reducing poverty and improving economic, social, and academic outcomes in disadvantaged communities. According to the Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force, "Promise Neighborhoods tailor their specific set of cradle-to-college-and-career solutions to the local context, but each share the following characteristics: results-driven focus on impacting population-level results; place-based to focus on a specific high-need geography; collective impact is achieved through partnerships; […] and most importantly, Promise Neighborhoods implement a comprehensive cradle-to-college-and-career continuum that addresses all of a family's needs to help them move out of poverty." Additionally, the Task Force noted that the model is community-powered, relies on both public and private investments, and is equity-focused.[2] This bill includes representatives from Promise Neighborhoods on the Council.

Related/Prior Legislation:

AB 1969 (Bonta, 2026) would establish the It Takes a Village Act of 2026 which creates the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program to be administered by CDSS or another department within the California Health and Human Services Agency, as designated by the Secretary of California Health and Human Services. AB 1969 is pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 132 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021) establishes the Cradle-to-Career Data System to link data on student progress through education, workforce training, employment, health and social services; establishes a governing board comprised of 21 members; and, establishes the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data within Government Operations Agency until July 1, 2026, among other things.

[2] ibid

AB 1520 (Burke, Chapter 415, Statutes of 2017) created the Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force to identify comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing deep childhood poverty and reducing child poverty in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely hundreds of thousands, to support the council.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Grace INC (source)
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
California Coalition for Youth
California Family Resource Association
Child Abuse Prevention Center and its Affiliates Safe Kids California, Prevent Child Abuse California and the California Family Resource Association; the County Welfare Directors Association of California
First 5 Association of California
Los Angeles County
Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)
Oakland Unified School District
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Wilson

Prepared by: Naima Ford Antal / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524

8/17/26 10:47:34

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2005
Author: Ahrens (D), et al.
Amended: 8/19/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/10/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 6-2, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Padilla
NOES: Seyarto, Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez, Grayson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-1, 5/14/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Housing developments: urban lot split: owner-occupancy

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill revises owner-occupancy requirements for an urban lot split under SB 9 (Atkins, Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021) until January 1, 2032.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/19/26 address chaptering conflicts with AB 2601 (Lee).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows, under the California Constitution, cities and counties to "make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws."

2) Requires, under SB 9, a city or county to ministerially approve either or both of the following, as specified:

   a) A housing development of no more than two units (duplex) in a single-family zone; or,

   b) The subdivision of a parcel zoned for residential use, into two approximately equal parcels (urban-lot split), as specified.

3) Authorizes a city or county to impose objective zoning, subdivision, and design review standards that do not conflict with state standards, except:

   a) A city or county shall not impose objective standards that would physically preclude the construction of up to two units or that would physically preclude either of the two units from being at least 800 square feet in floor area. A city or county may, however, require a setback of up to four feet from the side and rear lot lines; and,

   b) A city or county shall not require a setback for an existing structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as the existing structure.

4) Requires a city or county to ministerially approve a parcel map for an urban-lot split only if the local agency determines that the parcel map for the urban-lot split meets specified requirements.

5) Provides that a local government shall not be required to permit more than two units on a parcel.

6) Requires an applicant for an urban-lot split to sign an affidavit stating that the applicant intends to occupy one of the housing units as their principal residence for a minimum of three years from the date of the approval of the urban-lot split.

This bill:

1) Adds the option for an applicant of an SB 9 urban-lot split to select a different owner occupancy requirement, which shall be imposed as a condition of approval of a parcel map for the lot split, as follows:

a) The applicant signs an affidavit stating they intend to sell both parcels of an urban lot split after issuance of a certificate of occupancy within 3 years from the date of the approval of the urban lot split.

b) The applicant requires, as a condition of sale to the homebuyer, that one of the units on each parcel of the lot split remain owner-occupied for three years, beginning on the date the parcel or unit is conveyed.

c) The local agency records a notice of the owner-occupancy requirement as a condition of ministerial approval of the parcel map for the lot split.

d) The parcel or unit being purchased is subject to a recorded deed restriction imposing the owner-occupancy requirement on any subsequent homebuyer who purchases the parcel or unit during the three-year period.

e) The homebuyer records a notice of owner-occupancy as a condition to acquiring title to a parcel or unit. The notice shall state that the homebuyer, and any subsequent homebuyer who purchases the parcel or unit during the three-year period, is required to occupy the parcel or unit or designate the parcel or unit as their primary residence.

2) Requires all applicants for SB 9 urban-lot splits to sign an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, stating that they intend to comply with the owner occupancy requirement.

3) Allows a natural person who is the managing or authorized member of a limited liability company (LLC) or the trustee or beneficiary of a living trust to be the applicant for an urban-lot split under SB 9.

4) Provides that an applicant for an urban-lot split who is the managing or authorized member of an LLC who violates the SB 9 owner occupancy requirements shall be liable for civil penalties.

5) Excludes the boundaries of the 2025 Palisades or Eaton Fires in Los Angeles County from the bill.

6) Prohibits a local agency from adopting or imposing any requirement, process, practice, or procedure, or undertake any course of conduct, that applies to a project solely or partially on the basis of the project being an SB 9 lot split, including, but not limited to, restricting the eligibility of an applicant for an urban-lot split.

7) Requires the seller of an urban-lot split under SB 9 to disclose, in writing, any owner occupancy requirement for three years after the conveyance of an urban-lot split if the seller is the managing or authorized member of a LLC or the trustee of a living trust.

8) Sunsets the provisions of SB 9 that are added by this bill on January 1, 2032.

Background

Planning and approving new housing is mainly a local responsibility. The California Constitution allows cities and counties to "make and enforce within its limits, all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws." It is from this fundamental power (commonly called the police power) that cities and counties derive their authority to regulate behavior to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the public—including land use authority.

Planning and Zoning Law. State law provides additional powers and duties for cities and counties regarding land use. The Planning and Zoning Law requires every county and city to adopt a general plan that sets out planned uses for all of the area the plan covers. Cities' and counties' major land use decisions—including most zoning ordinances and other aspects of development permitting—must be consistent with their general plans.

Subdivision Map Act. The Subdivision Map Act (or Map Act) governs how local officials regulate the division of real property into smaller parcels for sale, lease, or financing. Cities and counties adopt local subdivision ordinances to carry out the Map Act and local requirements. City councils and county boards of supervisors use the Map Act to control a subdivision's design and improvements. Local subdivision approvals must be consistent with city and county general plans.

Under the Subdivision Map Act, cities and counties can attach scores of conditions. The Map Act allows local officials to require, as a condition of approving a proposed subdivision, the dedication of property within a subdivision for streets, alleys, drainage, utility easements, and other public easements and improvements. Once subdividers comply with those conditions, local officials must issue final maps. For smaller subdivisions that create four or fewer parcels, local officials usually use parcel maps, but they can require tentative parcel maps followed by final parcel maps. The Map Act also constrains the dedications and improvements that local cities and counties can require as a condition of a subdivision of four or fewer lots to only the dedication of rights-of-way, easements, and the construction of reasonable offsite and onsite improvements for the parcels being created.

Senate Bill 9 (Atkins, 2021). SB 9 requires cities and counties to permit ministerially either or both of the following, as long as they meet specified conditions:

- A housing development of no more than two units (a duplex).
- The subdivision of a parcel into two approximately equal parcels (urban lot split).

To be eligible, a development or parcel to be subdivided must be located within an urbanized area or urban cluster, as defined by the United States Census and cannot be located on specified types of sites with certain environmental conditions.

SB 9 requires a city or county to permit a housing development containing no more than two units ministerially in single family zones if the development meets certain conditions, including the requirements on eligible parcels above. A development can include adding one unit to an existing unit, or constructing two new units. In combination, SB 9's provisions allow up to four units to be built in areas where local zoning currently only allows one home.

Owner-occupancy requirements. Among other conditions, SB 9 requires that an applicant for an urban lot split submit a sworn affidavit to the city or county stating that the applicant intends to occupy one of the housing units as their principal residence for a minimum of three years from the date of the approval of the urban lot split. It also prohibits a local agency from imposing other owner occupancy standards.

Because housing developers focus on selling properties to other owners after they complete construction, SB 9's owner-occupancy requirement effectively prohibits anyone other than an owner-occupant from building the maximum of four units allowed by the law.

Recent reports on SB 9's effectiveness. In July 2021, as SB 9 was proceeding through the legislative process, the Terner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley (Terner Center) completed an analysis that estimated it could make approximately 700,000 units financially feasible to construct. The report emphasized that this number represents a maximum potential number of units, and was not a forecast of the number of units that would be developed.

After one year of SB 9 implementation, the Terner Center evaluated SB 9's effectiveness through another report. The report found that SB 9's impact has been

limited, and some larger cities have only seen a few, if any, applications for lot splits or new units. According to the report:

> We found that SB 9 activity is limited or non-existent in these thirteen cities (Table 1). Los Angeles had the most overall activity, with 211 applications for new units under SB 9 in 2022. The state's other large cities all reported very few applications for lot splits or new units. For example, the city of San Diego reported receiving just seven applications for new SB 9 units in 2022. To put these numbers into context, the city of San Diego permitted over 5,000 new homes in all of 2021 and Los Angeles permitted just under 20,000 new homes in 2021.

The report listed a variety of changes that could increase use of the law, including:

- Establishing more flexible standards for new home design—such as larger maximum home sizes and heights—and limiting extra costs—such as impact fees, particularly for single-family home to duplex conversions; and

- Revisiting the owner-occupancy requirement to encourage higher usage, while maintaining proper guardrails to protect against speculation by institutional investors and displacement in vulnerable communities.

In 2024, the Legislature amended SB 9 to address some of the early barriers to low utilization of the law through SB 450 (Atkins, Chapter 286, Statutes of 2024). SB 450 added a 60-day review period for SB 9 applications, removed the ability of local agencies to deny certain SB 9 projects, prohibited a local agency from imposing standards on SB 9 projects that do not apply to the underlying zoning district, gave the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) explicit enforcement authority over SB 9, and strengthened the statewide concern findings that applied SB 9 to charter cities. However, SB 450 did not modify the law's owner-occupancy requirements.

Uptake in recent years has increased: HCD's Annual Progress Report dashboard reports, as of June 2026, that 1,671 SB 9 projects have been submitted statewide, with 862 projects submitted in the City of Los Angeles alone. The author wants to further encourage the use of SB 9 to build additional units.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "California's housing shortage—and the growing homeownership crisis—requires solutions at many scales. SB 9

was designed to enable small, incremental housing production led by homeowners, creating opportunities for more attainable, entry-level ownership in existing neighborhoods. It also allows homeowners to unlock value within their own property that is otherwise inaccessible unless they sell and leave their home.

"However, implementation has revealed unintended technical barriers that prevent some responsible homeowners from participating, particularly those who use common estate planning tools. AB 2005 clarifies the law, so it works as intended, ensuring these homeowners are not excluded while maintaining strong protections against investor speculation.

"In my district, I still need to rent because the average price of a first-time home exceeds $ 1 million. AB 2005 can help create greater equity in homeownership, removing barriers that unlock small-scale housing production, expand access to entry-level homeownership, and support long-term wealth building for California families who are increasingly being priced out of the market."

2) *There's gold in them thar hills*. The urban lot split provisions of SB 9 attempt to strike a balance between encouraging widespread, but less visible, densification of single-family zones and the desire to keep community ties intact. It allows homeowners to build generational wealth by splitting off a portion of their lot to be used to develop new housing, while keeping them in their home and the community they have connections to. SB 9's current owner-occupancy requirement allows urban lot splits in these circumstances, but prevents developers, who may have more expertise and capacity to build new units but do not occupy the units they build, from maximizing the number of units built through SB 9. AB 2005 revises the owner-occupancy requirement to allow sale of units developed using an urban lot split to future homeowners who occupy the property. This could enable more SB 9 units to be built, which are smaller and therefore may sell for cheaper than the currently available homes. Opponents of the measure are concerned that this could lead to displacement of vulnerable residents if investors see a profitable opportunity and flip less-expensive housing into more expensive new homes that are unaffordable to existing community members.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Abundant Housing Los Angeles
Bay Area Council
California Apartment Association
California Yimby
Casita Coalition
Circulate Planning & Policy
East Bay for Everyone
East Bay Yimby
Equitable Land Use Alliance (ELUA)
Families and Homes San Jose
Fieldstead and Company, INC.
Grow the Richmond
Housing Action Coalition
Mountain View Yimby
Napa-solano for Everyone
New California Coalition
Northern Neighbors Sf
Peninsula for Everyone
San Francisco Yimby
San Jose Yimby
San Mateo Forward
Santa Cruz Yimby
Santa Rosa Yimby
South Bay Yimby
Spur
Student Homes Coalition
Sv@home Action Fund
The Two Hundred for Homeownership
Ventura County Yimby
Yes! in Redwood City
Yimby Action
Yimby Los Angeles
Yimby Monterey Peninsula
Yimby Slo

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Association of Realtors
California Bankers Association
California Escrow Association
California Land and Title Association

California's Credit Unions
Sustainable Community Development Corporation
United Neighbors

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-1, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Boerner, Castillo, Flora, Gallagher, Johnson, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Anton Favorini-Csorba / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/20/26 14:28:40

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2009
Author: Chen (R) and Solache (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Blood banks and plasma centers

SOURCE: Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association

DIGEST: This bill makes various updates in licensing provisions for plasma centers (PCs), including: excluding PCs from blood bank licensing laws; eliminating requirements pertaining to blood transfusion principles and practices; modernizing the requirements for acceptable photographic identification to be a plasma donor; allowing for other licensed health professionals to do pre-donor screenings; and, allowing for the continuity of PC operation when there are personnel or ownership changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits a person from engaging in the production of human whole blood or human whole blood derivatives unless the person is licensed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the human whole blood or human whole blood derivative is collected, prepared, labeled, and stored in accordance with standards for all licensed blood banks (including PCs) and blood

transfusion services in the state set by the American Association of Blood Banks and specified state regulations. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1602.5]

2) Requires blood to be processed into plasma only in blood banks adequately staffed and equipped for that purpose. Requires the individual directly in charge of plasma processing to be a licensed physician or an individual sufficiently trained in laboratory procedures relating to blood banking and plasma processing and whose qualifications have been approved by CDPH. Permits the staff to include other trained persons necessary for the proper operation of plasma processing. [17 California Code of Regulations (CCR) §1011]

3) Permits a person to perform a total protein test using a digital refractometer in a licensed PC, if CDPH, as part of its routine, fee-supported inspection of the licensed PC, including its review of personnel reports for licensed and unlicensed personnel and job descriptions of all center positions for a licensed plasma collection center, determines that specific conditions, such as education, training, and supervision, are met. [Business and Professions Code (BPC) §1246.7]

4) Requires each blood bank or PC to require as identification either a driver's license or other photographic identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from all donors of human whole blood or blood components who receive payment in return for the donation of that blood or blood components. [HSC §1603.2(a)]

5) Requires establishments that receive human whole blood and human whole blood derivatives specified by regulation and are not subject to licensure provisions for human whole blood, human whole blood derivatives, and other biologics, to be considered as blood bank depositories. Laboratory tests and other procedures with respect to the preparation of blood for transfusion are the sole responsibility of the blood bank depository. [HSC §1605]

6) Requires blood bank and PC licenses to be automatically revoked when there is a change of address, ownership, or person in charge of biologics production. Permits a new license to be secured for the new location, owner, or person in charge prior to the actual change if the contemplated change is in compliance with all the provisions of relevant existing law. [HSC §1615]

This bill:

1) Makes various updates to laws governing the operation of PCs and related licensing provisions that:

   a) Specify that "source plasma donation centers" are not blood bank depositories. Defines "source plasma donation centers" as a facility, other than a licensed blood bank, where source plasma is collected by plasmapheresis;

   b) Expands the forms of identification blood banks and PCs are required to obtain from all donors of human whole blood or blood components who receive payment for the donation to include photographic identification issued by another state, federal agency, or tribal government. Permits CDPH to notify PCs of the acceptable forms of donor identification by means of a provider bulletin or notice, policy letter, posting on CDPH's website, or other similar instructions without taking regulatory action; and,

   c) Deletes the requirement that a PC license be automatically revoked upon a change in the person in charge of the PC. Requires a PC, if the person in charge of biologics production disassociates with it, to provide written notification to CDPH within 24 hours of the date of the disassociation and to submit, within 30 days, an amendment to the application designating a new person in charge.

2) Prohibits a licensee from operating without the supervision of a medical director.

3) Requires a license to be automatically revoked when there is a change of address, ownership, or the person in charge of biologics production. Permits a new license to be secured for the new location, owner, or person in charge prior to the actual change of the contemplated change is in compliance with all the provisions of this bill's provisions and regulations.

4) Prohibits CDPH from automatically revoking a PC's license when there is a change of the person in charge of biologics production if: (1) The owner or the owner's representative provides written notification of the change to CDPH within five days of the change that includes the name of the previous person in charge of biologics and their date of departure, the name and qualifications of the interim designee and anticipated duration of service, and the signature of the owner or owner's representative; and (2) the licensee submits, within 30 days of

the change, the application for a new person in charge of biologics production pursuant to this bill's provisions.

5) Permits a licensed PC's medical director to establish protocols for authorizing other licensed health care professionals, as approved by CDPH, acting within their scope of practice to perform donor screenings, predonation health screenings, and donor suitability assessments.

6) Permits a licensed PC's medical director to delegate to other licensed health care professionals the performance of health services duties that are both of the following:

   a) Within the scope of practice of the licensed health care professional, as approved by CDPH and as defined under that person's respective licensing act; and,

   b) Performed under the supervision and protocols established by the medical director, consistent with facility policies and applicable state and federal requirements.

7) Specifies that 6) above does not expand the scope of practice of any licensed health care professional or limit the authority of CDPH to regulate PCs.

8) Adds to the list of conditions under which a person may perform a total protein test using a digital refractometer that the licensed PC's medical director has sufficient proficiency and knowledge with the use and supervision of digital refractometers in performing total protein tests. If the PC only performs services related to plasma collection, CDPH is prohibited from imposing additional unrelated experiential requirements for medical directors of PCs, including transfusion principles and transfusion practices.

9) Requires PCs and their auxiliaries to be under the direction of a medical director or person in charge of biologics production who is both a licensed physician and has a minimum of three months of experience or training in PC methods and meets other applicable state and federal requirements.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> California prides itself on being a leader in innovation and health care, but outdated laws are holding us back. This bill will improve our ability to collect source plasma efficiently and better meet the needs of patients who depend on these therapies every day. California is one of only ten states in the nation that does not collect enough plasma to meet the needs of its residents, forcing reliance on long, out-of-state supply chains for essential medicines. This bill brings California's policies into alignment with modern medical practice without compromising safety.

Author's stated need for updates. In background information provided by the author's office, it is stated that California currently applies a mix of laws written for other entities (blood banks for transfusion, clinical labs, etc.) to govern PCs. Some of these laws are from a time when source plasma donation was a manual process. The plasma donation process has been automated since the 1990s. As a result of these antiquated rules and regulations, California lags far behind other states when it comes to plasma donation. Even though California is the most populous state and the fourth largest economy in the world, California ranks 39th in the country in terms of per capita plasma donation. In fact, California only collects 80% of the plasma needed to meet the needs of its residents.

Whole blood vs. plasma donation. According to the Red Cross website, whole blood is simply the blood that flows through one's veins. It contains red cells, white cells, and platelets, suspended in plasma. Whole blood is the most flexible type of donation and can be transfused in its original form, or used to help multiple people when separated into its specific components of red cells, plasma, and platelets. Every day, donations help save the lives of children and adults fighting to survive cancer, blood disorders, traumatic injuries, and more. During a plasma-only donation, blood is drawn from one arm and sent through a machine that collects plasma and returns red cells and platelets back to the donor, along with some saline. It takes only a few minutes longer than donating blood but can have a profound impact. Type AB plasma is the only universal type and can be given to patients of any blood type. Only 4% of the population has type AB blood. Plasma products are used by burn, trauma, and cancer patients.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown costs, potentially tens of thousands, for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for state administration (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (source)
Bay Area Cancer Connections
Biocom
Bleeding Disorders Council of California
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Life Sciences Association
Center for Inherited Blood Disorders
Grifols, Inc.
Hereditary Angioedema Association
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis
Liver Coalition of San Diego
Neuropathy Action Foundation
Patient Advocates United in San Diego County
Plasminogen Deficiency Foundation
Takeda Pharmaceuticals America

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association, as sponsor, and other supporters state that this bill would modernize California's laws that regulate PCs, where human plasma is donated for the purpose of manufacturing plasma-derived therapies (PDTs). There are currently more than 60 PCs in the Golden State, providing between 3,000 and 6,000 high-paying jobs and injecting more than $300 million into local economies. Enactment of this bill would facilitate additional development of plasma collection in our state and, in doing so, ensure that the patients who depend on PDTs have reliable access to these lifesaving therapies.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Lee, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Reyes Diaz / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/17/26 10:47:34

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2012
Author: Hoover (R) and Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Vehicles: transportation of manufactured homes

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to the requirements in regards to the transport of manufactured homes, as specified. Additionally, requires the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to convene a stakeholder working group and submit a report to the Legislature pertaining to improving efficiencies in the transport of various types of housing structures, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 provide additional provisions pertaining to changing the Caltrans' permitting process for the transport of manufactured homes, factory-built housing, and commercial modular, as defined.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in consultation with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), to impose permit conditions,

including routing requirements and escort vehicle requirements (e.g. pilot car, CHP escort, etc), necessary to ensure safe movement of oversized loads.

2) Authorizes Caltrans and local authorities to issue special and annual permits for the movement of manufactured homes and mobilehomes, subject to specified terms and conditions to ensure public safety and highway protection.

3) Establishes requirements governing the transportation of manufactured homes on highways, including restrictions and conditions related to width, safety equipment, and operational requirements.

4) Defines a "Highway" as a way or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. A highway includes a street.

This bill:

1) Removes the good cause requirement for Caltrans or a local authority to issue a special or annual permit for the transport of manufactured homes, factory-build housing, or commercial modulars, as defined.

2) Expands the issuance of a special or annual permit to include the transportation of a manufactured home, factory-built housing, and commercial modular, not exceeding 14 feet in total width, as specified.

3) Provides that, when transporting a manufactured home, factory-built housing, and commercial modular, as defined, a mover is not required to obtain an additional special permit issued by Caltrans if the mover has obtained a Caltrans-issued annual permit to transport manufactured homes.

4) Removes the requirement and further authorizes Caltrans in cooperation with CHP or a local authority to require pilot car or special escort services for the transport of manufactured housing units, as specified.

5) Requires by March 31, 2027, for HCD in consultation with Caltrans and CHP to convene a stakeholder workgroup to gather feedback on cost pressures associated with the transport of manufactured homes, factory-built housing, and commercial modular and further provide feedback in regards to efficiencies and cost saving opportunities associated with the transport of the abovementioned housing units. Further specifies the workgroup is to meet on a quarterly basis

and identifies various stakeholder groups required to serve on the HCD-led working group, as specified.

6) Requires HCD in consultation with Caltrans and CHP to submit a report to the Legislature with findings and recommendations by January 1, 2029.

7) Makes technical changes to clarify the provisions specified in this bill pertain to manufactured homes, factory-built housing, or commercial modular, as defined.

Comments

1) *Caltrans-Issued Permits*. The Caltrans Transportation Permit Manual specifies four main types of transportation permits: single trip, repetitive, variance, and annual. Each of these is considered a type of special permit.

   A single-trip (i.e. special permit) is issued for a load or vehicle exceeding 8'-6" in width, 14' in height, or 80,000 pounds in weight, and is valid for one-way travel from Point A to Point B. The permit is valid for seven days and is good for one trip. Permit applicants prepare a safe route by checking all horizontal and vertical clearances, as well as bridge weight restrictions. If the same route is used for multiple one-way trips, a repetitive permit may be issued for loads up to 12 feet wide, 14'-6" high, and 90 feet long. A repetitive permit is valid for up to 90 days. For loads exceeding 15 feet in width, 17 feet in height, or 135 feet in length, a variance permit is issued, which is a type of single trip permit. A variance permit may require a CHP escort to move the load.

   An annual permit is issued for a load or vehicle up to 12 feet in width, 14 feet in height, and 40 feet distance from kingpin to rear axle. These permits are valid for one year. Permit applicants do not prepare a specific route; rather, annual permit holders may travel on all designated / approved routes.
   Caltrans weekly notifies the hauler of any restrictions on those approved routes.

   Regarding manufactured homes, annual permits are issued for loads up to 12 feet in width, 14 feet in height, and combined lengths up to 105 feet using California pilot car maps. These limits allow uniform statewide travel without requiring route-specific engineering review. A single-trip (i.e. special) permit is issued for manufactured homes between 12 and 16 feet in width because exceeding annual permit parameters (width, height, and length) requires

verification of bridge clearances, overhead structures, turning radii, and overall route feasibility.

2) *What are pilot vehicles / CHP escorts?* Pilot vehicles or CHP escorts are required when the vehicle load exceeds specified width / length / height thresholds. Pilot vehicle operators must carry valid California pilot car certification, two-way radios, warning flags, and comply with Vehicle Code signage and lighting requirements. Pilot vehicles must maintain a safe distance from the load, avoid impeding traffic, and follow designated positions (preceding or following). Pilot vehicles are typically required when width, length, or height exceed general requirements. For example, a load with a width over 12 feet would require a pilot vehicle(s). For significantly larger loads, a CHP escort is required when the load exceeds route-specific width / length thresholds, opposing lanes must be used, slowing is required for structures, crossing bridges, etc.

3) *Attempt to improve the process.* Supporters of this measure assert that as the state attempts to address its housing supply issues, more is needed to improve the efficiencies of transporting manufactured homes, factory-built housing, or commercial modular in and throughout California to assist in tackling the housing supply issue. The provisions specified in this bill attempt to take a step forward by attempting to implement a number of efficiencies in the Caltrans' permitting process, making changes to the permitting process, and establishing a stakeholder working group to identify inefficiencies and cost saving measures that aim to improve the transport of these three types housing structures in the future. However, it's important to note while this bill aims improve the various processes, the necessity for a number of provisions remains unclear including HCD being designated to lead the stakeholder working group and / or changing Caltrans' requirement to require pilot vehicles or CHP escort services for the transport of manufactured homes to be permissive.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Housing Consortium (source)
California Conference of Carpenters
Eden Housing
Modular Building Institute
Villa Technologies, INC

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jackson, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/24/26 11:46:52

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2015
Author: Wicks (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 9-3, 6/23/26
AYES: Cortese, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Wiener
NOES: Strickland, Dahle, Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-15, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Department of Transportation: third-party navigation applications: study and report

SOURCE: Streets for All

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to conduct a pilot study and make recommendations on the impact of third-party navigation applications on roads in a particular region of the state.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes local jurisdictions to implement slow streets programs, by closing a portion or the entirety of a local street to through traffic. To implement a slow streets program, the jurisdictions must, among other things: (Vehicle Code (VEH) §21101)

a) Conduct outreach and engagement with local residents and property owners.

b) Determine that the restrictions leave a sufficient portion of surrounding streets for other uses.

c) Determine that the closure is necessary for the safety of persons who use the street.

This bill:

1) Requires Caltrans, in consultation with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and regional and local authorities, to conduct a pilot study, in a region of the state determined by Caltrans, on the impact of third-party navigation applications on the state highway system and local street and road networks. This study must analyze:

   a) The extent to which third-party navigation applications shift congestion from state highways to local streets;

   b) The impact on local infrastructure;

   c) Changes in traffic safety on local roads; and,

   d) The effect on response times of emergency responders.

2) Requires Caltrans to submit a report based on the study to the relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2029. This report must contain policy recommendations, as part of which the following may be considered:

   a) Requiring data sharing between third-party navigation applications and local jurisdictions;

   b) Establishing frameworks for third-party navigation applications to respect local traffic ordinances; and,

   c) Establishing technological standards to prioritize safety and emissions reductions over marginal time savings.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "Third-party navigation apps like Google Maps, Apple Maps, and Waze have fundamentally altered how drivers move through California's cities and towns. By continuously optimizing for the

fastest route, these algorithms regularly divert traffic off state highways and onto streets and roads — often without regard for weight limits, access restrictions, school zones, or other conditions that local governments have established to protect their communities. AB 2015 requires Caltrans to conduct a study on the impact of third-party navigation apps on the state highway system and local street and road networks. Sending drivers down the fastest path — regardless of whether that path runs through a quiet residential block, past a school, or down a street that a community has worked for years to make safer – is a decision that deserves to be scrutinized, so California has the data and policy framework to align navigation technology with the transportation planning decisions of state and local governments."

2) *Third-party navigation applications.* Third-party navigation apps have proliferated since the introduction of Waze in 2008, which utilized crowdsourced data, incorporating real-time, user-submitted travel information to optimize routing based on live traffic patterns. Since then, navigation apps have increasingly harnessed the ability to dynamically divert traffic to avoid congestion. This ability has become increasingly important, as according to the *2025 Annual Urban Mobility Scorecard*, Americans lost an average of 63 hours sitting in traffic in 2024, equivalent to nearly eight full workdays. The same study found a 16% increase in national congestion costs over the previous five years, bringing the total cost up to $269 billion annually.

   Navigation apps though have been shown to make a measurable difference in congestion. According to a 2020 report by the London School of Economics, titled *Mitigating Traffic Congestion: The Role of Intelligent Transportation Systems*, providing drivers with route advice through navigation apps is a successful traffic management tool with the potential to reduce traffic externalities such as congestion, air pollution, and crashes. The report found that the use of navigation systems by individual drivers is associated with a significant decrease in unnecessary travel time and congestion costs, resulting in annual national savings of approximately 175 million hours in travel time and $4.72 billion in travel costs. Furthermore, the study suggests that the congestion-mitigating effect of these systems is enhanced as commuters collectively increasingly utilize online traffic services and navigation applications. This finding is supported by a study from the UC Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies, titled *Impact of Navigation Apps on Congestion and Spread Dynamics on a Transportation Network,* which found that traffic congestion can improve if even just 30-60% of users follow so-called dynamic routing. These findings together highlight that real-time information provided by navigation apps is a highly cost-effective intervention

for relieving congestion, especially compared to traditional physical infrastructure investments.

3) *Slow streets programs.* While navigation apps can help address traffic congestion at a macro level, local jurisdictions often have their own concerns with traffic and traffic safety. Increasingly, many jurisdictions have started adopting slow streets programs. These programs, also sometimes called safe streets programs, are generally focused on providing safe places for people to walk, cycle, skate, or otherwise get outside and exercise without having to worry about vehicular traffic at high speeds. Generally, these streets have specific exemptions for local access, deliveries, and emergency vehicles.

   Slow streets are typically enforced through the installation of traffic diverters, narrowing streets, creating turn restrictions, or implementing other traffic calming measures. Signage, such as "Local Traffic Only" signs or other such signs redirecting the flow of traffic, is also used at main vehicle entry points to reduce vehicle congestion. Local jurisdictions have also at times identified stewards to take care of and monitor barricades.

   According to state law, local authorities must adopt such a program by ordinance and are required to define the program and facilitate public engagement. Specifically, the locality must determine the closure or restriction is necessary for the safety and protection of the people who are to use that portion of the street, determine that the closure or restriction leaves a sufficient portion of streets in the surrounding area for other public uses, such as vehicular traffic, and clearly designates the streets with state-approved signage. Furthermore, the locality must conduct an outreach and engagement process that at a minimum, includes notification to the residents and owners of property abutting any street being considered for inclusion in the program; provide advance notice of any closure or traffic restriction to residents and owners of abutting streets; maintain a public website with information about the program, including a list of streets that are in the program or being considered and instructions for participating in the public engagement process.

4) *Navigation apps move congestion to local roads.* While third-party navigation apps have been shown to ease traffic congestion on busy commuter routes, in practice this is accomplished by diverting traffic to local streets and roads. This has created a host of issues for local jurisdictions, particularly when traffic is diverted into regions with slow streets programs.

   Many of these issues arise because these local streets and roads were usually

not designed to optimize or even accommodate high levels of traffic flow. These streets may be narrow, have steep hills, or have tight or blind turns, all of which can create hazards for drivers unfamiliar with the area. Furthermore, these roads were often not built to withstand the increased traffic volumes or use by heavier vehicles that navigation apps often bring.
Finally, many local jurisdictions are simply facing increased traffic congestion, in some cases to extreme levels. For example, in the small town of Leonia, New Jersey, navigation apps were increasingly routing commuters through the town to avoid backups ahead of the George Washington Bridge into New York City. As a result, businesses and private residences were being blocked as traffic piled up on local streets, with local residents reporting having to wait up to 15 minutes to pull out of their driveways.

Altogether, these issues have caused many jurisdictions to try and undertake their own solutions to prevent navigation apps from rerouting traffic through their local streets and roads. The town of Leonia changed local laws to prevent through traffic on all side streets during rush hour. Other communities have told their residents to go into applications like Google Maps and report local routes as incorrect routing options.

In California, many local jurisdictions are somewhat limited in the responses they can take. This is because state law generally restricts the ability of local jurisdictions to lower speed limits or close local roads. In most cases, local jurisdictions cannot lower local speed limits without performing a traffic study that demonstrates a clear safety need. Similarly, local jurisdictions are heavily restricted in their ability to close or limit access to local roads, with the slow streets program being one of the only primary exceptions.

5) *Balancing the benefits of navigation apps with local concerns.* AB 2015 seeks to take a first step towards balancing the concerns of local jurisdictions with the wider benefits of navigation apps on regional traffic patterns. It does so by requiring Caltrans to carry out a pilot study investigating how third-party navigation apps impact local jurisdictions. Specifically, the study must look at how congestion is displaced to local streets and roads and how that displacement impacts local infrastructure, traffic safety, and emergency response abilities. Caltrans is then tasked with producing a set of policy recommendations centered on producing new standards or frameworks to allow greater coordination between navigation apps and local jurisdictions, and to place guardrails on the ability of navigation apps to reroute traffic through local streets and roads.

Moving forward, the Legislature may want to consider the tradeoffs between overall traffic and pollution mitigation created by navigation apps, and the acute stresses that traffic displacement can cause for local jurisdictions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Caltrans estimates one-time costs of approximately $3.9 million (State Highway Account) to complete the pilot study and report to the Legislature by January 1, 2029, including $2.5 million for a consultant contract and approximately $693,000 annually for two years for 4.0 PY (limited term) to oversee the consultant contract, coordinate with state and local partners, manage procurement and public outreach, develop supporting data capabilities, review technical work products, and prepare the final report. The consultant would develop specialized methodologies, analytical tools, and evaluation framework necessary to assess the impacts of traffic diversion caused by third-party navigation apps.

- The California Transportation Agency (CalSTA) indicates that any costs to consult with Caltrans for the study and report would be minor and absorbable. (State Highway Account)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Streets for All (source)
Alameda County Transportation Commission
California State Association of Counties
Circulate Planning & Policy
City of South Pasadena

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-15, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan,

Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Flora, Lackey, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Samuel Myers / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/17/26 10:47:35

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2017
Author: Haney (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 11-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Hurtado, Padilla, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NOES: Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Dahle, Richardson

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-1, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-1, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State holidays: Eid

SOURCE: California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs; Council on American Islamic Relations, California Muslim Impact Council

DIGEST: This bill adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address statutory chapter issues with similar legislation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for the date known as "Lunar New Year," the date known as "Genocide Remembrance Day," the date known as "Diwali," the date known as "Juneteenth," or the date known as "Native American Day," in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit, as specified.

2) Designates holidays on which community colleges and public schools are authorized to close pursuant to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the governing board and represented employees, including "Native American Day" on the fourth Friday in September.

3) Entitles state employees, with specified exceptions, to be given time off with pay for specified holidays.

4) Authorizes state employees to elect to use eight hours of vacation, annual leave, compensating time off, or personal holiday credit corresponding with specified dates.

This bill:

1) Designates the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as "Eid al-Fitr," and the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as "Eid al-Adha," as state holidays, and excludes those dates from designation as judicial holiday.

2) Authorizes community colleges and public schools to close on "Eid al-Fitr" and "Eid al-Adha," and authorizes public educational institutions to conduct exercises, funded through existing resources exploring the history of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, as specified.

3) Provides that for those holidays whose dates vary annually, a state employee may instead make the election on the dates designated by their group, as specified.

4) Includes related legislative findings and declarations, as specified.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "AB 2017 recognizes Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as official California state holidays. California is home to one of the nation's largest and most diverse Muslim communities, yet our state holiday calendar has not kept pace with that reality. Muslim students and families are often forced to choose between fully observing their holiest days and attending school or work obligations. By adding Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to California's list of recognized state holidays, consistent with the state's existing recognition of observances such as Lunar New Year and Diwali—AB 2017 promotes inclusion, respect, and a stronger sense of belonging for Muslim Californians while relying on existing law governing school calendars, employee leave, and institutional observance."

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Islam recognizes two principal religious holidays that are celebrated by Muslims around the world: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. The dates of both holidays are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon rather than the solar-based Gregorian calendar. As a result, the Gregorian dates of these observances change each year, occurring approximately 11 days earlier annually.

Eid al-Fitr, meaning the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," marks the conclusion of Ramadan, the month during which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan is a period of religious observance, prayer, Quran recitation, self-reflection, and spiritual devotion, including the observance of Laylat al-Qadr, one of the holiest nights in Islam. Eid al-Fitr begins on the first day of Shawwal, the month following Ramadan, and is traditionally marked by special congregational prayers held shortly after sunrise, as well as gatherings with family and community members.

Eid al-Adha, known as the "Festival of Sacrifice," commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of Allah. The holiday emphasizes the values of faith, sacrifice, generosity, and service to others. Observed beginning on the tenth day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the final month of the Islamic calendar, Eid al-Adha coincides with the culmination of the annual Hajj pilgrimage and is traditionally celebrated over a three-day period.

While both Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are significant religious celebrations marked by prayer and community gatherings, they commemorate different events

and traditions. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the completion of Ramadan and is commonly associated with feasting, charitable giving, and the exchange of gifts. In contrast, Eid al-Adha coincides with the conclusion of Hajj and focuses on themes of sacrifice, reflection, generosity, and communal worship. Together, these observances are among the most important holidays in Islam and serve as occasions for spiritual renewal, family gatherings, and community engagement.

Unpaid/Paid Holidays. California law does not require a private employer to provide its employees with paid holidays, that it closes its business on any holiday, or that employees be given the day off for any particular holiday. If an employer closes its business on holidays and gives its employees time off from work with pay, that occurred pursuant to a policy or practice adopted by the employer, pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, or pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement between the employer and employee, as there is nothing in law that requires such a practice.

At the local level, cities have the liberty to specify by charter, ordinance or resolution what paid holidays the city will provide to its city employees. Similarly, most state employees are bound by the memorandum of understanding that they have negotiated with the Governor.

This bill adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays and excludes each of those days from designation as judicial holidays. This bill also authorizes community colleges and public schools to close on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha and authorizes public educational institutions to incorporate exercises celebrating the meaning and importance of those dates. This bill also authorizes state employees to take a certain type of personal leave on those dates.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1841 (Ramos, 2026) entitles state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day," as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2294 (Ta, 2026) designates Sylvia Mendez Day as a state holiday, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2455 (Haney, Chapter 49, Statutes of 2026) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 17 as Bruce Lee Day, and designates and sets apart that date each year as having special significance, as specified.

AB 268 (Kalra, Chapter, Statutes of 2025) added Diwali to the list of state holidays, and authorized public schools and community colleges to close on that date, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown, potentially significant fiscal impact to local educational agencies (LEAs), to the extent their governing boards agree to the paid holiday (Proposition 98 General Fund). The California Department of Education (CDE) notes in Fiscal Year 2023-24, LEAs paid $17.78 billion in classified salaries. Assuming 260 unadjusted working days, the statewide cost of one day of pay for classified employees of school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and K-12 joint powers authorities is approximately $68.8 million. While CDE anticipates no direct fiscal impact, it estimates $300,000 in costs to develop public school exercises if the State Board of Education (SBE) adopts a model curriculum guide.

Unknown total fiscal impact, potentially ranging in the tens to low hundreds of thousands of dollars to the California Community Colleges (CCCs), to the extent districts enter into memorandums of understanding with faculty or staff unions to observe Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha (Proposition 98 General Fund). The CCC Chancellor's Office notes potential workload costs in the low thousands of dollars per district to develop the policy, plus cost pressures to add a corresponding instructional day. Each of the 73 districts would also incur minor workload costs to update holiday guidance and related documents.

Unknown cost pressures to the SBE if it adopts a model curriculum guide for exercises related to Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

CalHR anticipates minor and absorbable costs for workload to revise the state holidays list, update related policies, and inform agencies and employee bargaining units of the change in law.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (Co-source)
Council on American Islamic Relations, California (Co-source)
Muslim Impact Council (Co-source)
Afghan-American Foundation
Amal Collective

American Muslim Voice Foundation
Arab American Caucus CA Dem.
Bay Area Muslim Council
Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco
CAIR Action
California Democratic Party
California Federation of Teachers
Center for Arab Narratives
Chinatown Community Development Center
City of Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee
Intercultural Networks Group
Interfaith Center At the Presidio
Islamic Center of Santa Cruz
Islamic Center of Temecula Valley
Islamic Circle of North America - Sacramento Chapter
Islamic Student Studies Association At UC Santa Cruz
Latino & Muslim Unity
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Manara West
Mindful Parenting Association
Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
Muslim American Society-social Services Foundation
Muslim Community of Folsom
Muslim Democrats and Friends
Muslim Impact Council
Muslim Law Students Association At UC Berkeley
Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego
Muslim Mosque Association
Muslim Parents Association
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Pakistani Community Members of Sacramento
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims
Sacramento Metro Muslim Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Islamic School
Shia Association of Bay Area
South Asian Network
South Valley Islamic Center
The Islamic Society of Simi Valley

Vivalon

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Family Council
Real Impact

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA) writes, in part, "Islam is the world's second-largest religion, with over 1.9–2 billion followers worldwide. The United States is home to approximately 4.5 million Muslims, and California has one of the largest Muslim populations in the country, with over 1 million estimated Muslim residents. Despite California's long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion, the two most important holidays in the Islamic faith are not currently recognized in California statute.

"Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, reflection, prayer, and charitable giving observed by Muslims around the world. Eid al-Adha occurs during the final month of the Islamic lunar calendar and coincides with the completion of the Hajj pilgrimage. Both holidays are deeply significant days of prayer, family gatherings, community celebration, and charitable giving.

"Because Eid follows the Islamic lunar calendar, the dates shift approximately 10 to 11 days earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar. As a result, Muslim students and employees frequently face difficult choices between fulfilling school or workplace obligations and participating in essential religious observances.

"Muslim students often face a no-win situation: attend school and miss communal prayers and religious practices or observe their faith and risk falling behind academically. Even when absences are excused, students can miss instruction and feel excluded from their peers. Employees similarly face challenges when workplaces do not formally recognize these holidays."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In opposition to this bill, Real Impact writes, in part, "AB 2017 seeks to give official recognition to California's Muslim holidays, Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha. The bill would require public schools to excuse student absences for these holidays, allow schools and community colleges to close on these days if local governing boards approve. It would also permit schools to offer educational activities about the significance of the holidays.

Additionally, state employees would be allowed to use up to eight hours of leave annually to observe Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

"At a time when many California schools are facing challenges in academic performance and accountability, the primary responsibility of government should be to strengthen educational outcomes and uphold high academic standards. This includes evaluating whether additional non-instructional days are consistent with improving student achievement and meeting testing and learning benchmarks.

"There is also a broader concern regarding precedent. When additional holidays are added, it raises ongoing questions about equity and consistency across different cultural and religious observances. While historical and cultural traditions are part of American civic life, public institutions must carefully balance recognition of diversity with the constitutional principle of governmental neutrality in matters of religion."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-1, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/24/26 13:41:51

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2020
Author: Gabriel (D)
Introduced: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Housing programs: financing

SOURCE: Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California
The California Housing Partnership

DIGEST: This bill allows the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to authorize the transfer of residual receipts or excess reserves from one rental housing development to another rental housing development with the same owner.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 redefine "excess reserves" as replacement reserves, in excess of the amount needed to fund immediate and short-term capital repair needs, as specified, within the preceding three years by a qualified independent third party, operating reserves, or project-specific transition reserves by the HCD regulatory agreement, and makes other clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows HCD to approve an extension of an HCD loan, the reinstatement of a qualifying unpaid matured loan, the subordination of an HCD loan to new debt, or an investment of tax credit equity under various older HCD rental housing finance programs.

2) Provides that HCD may subordinate its loan to refinance existing senior debt only as necessary for project feasibility and to reimburse borrower advances for predevelopment costs, recent capital improvements, and recent operating deficits.

3) Creates the Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), whose Regulations include the following prohibitions:

   a) Prohibits the Sponsor from encumbering, pledging, or hypothecating the Rental Housing Development, or any interest therein or portion thereof, or allow any lien, charge, or assessment against the Rental Housing Development without the prior written approval of HCD. HCD will not permit refinancing of existing liens or additional financing secured by the Rental Housing Development except to the extent necessary to maintain or improve the Fiscal Integrity of the Project, to maintain Affordable Rents, or to decrease Rents and for no other purpose, including, but not limited to, cash payments to the Sponsor, repayment of general partner loans or of limited partner loans, or for limited partner buyouts. This special condition controls, in that no MHP reserve balance can fund a limited partner buyout or exit; and

   b) No loan may be paid off prior to maturity without the prior written consent of HCD in its sole discretion, which shall be subject to conditions deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the Program requirements. All of the loan documents, including the Regulatory Agreement and Deed of Trust, shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding any prepayment, in whole or in part, of the loan.

4) Requires HCD to allow an owner of a property subject to a regulatory agreement with HCD to take out additional debt on the development to finance, with HCD's approval, rehabilitation of the property or investment in new affordable housing, if all of the following conditions are met:

   a) All hard debt, including the additional debt, is underwritten with a debt-service coverage ratio of, at a minimum 1.15, and is demonstrated to project

positive cash flow for 15 consecutive years. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hard debt" means debt that must be repaid via an amortizing payment or at a specified maturity date;

b) Any new debt is subordinate to HCD's lien and regulatory agreement, as applicable, unless HCD reasonably determines that subordination of HCD's lien is necessary for the feasibility of a project and to fund reasonable rehabilitation or improvements, including soft costs;

c) Any extracted equity is any of the following:

i. With HCD's approval, contributed to other projects that will increase or improve the supply of deed-restricted affordable housing serving low-income households in the state;
ii. Utilized in the purchase of a limited partner interest of a tax credit investor in the project, as specified;
iii. Utilized in the payment of any unpaid deferred developer fee for the project pursuant to any applicable HCD regulations;
iv. Applied toward payment for necessary repairs and rehabilitation of the project;
v. Utilized for the establishment or replenishment of HCD-approved project reserves; and,

vi. Utilized for any other purposes approved by HCD.

d) HCD's regulatory agreement remains in place for the project for its remaining term; and,

e) HCD continues to be entitled to receive monitoring fees to ensure compliance with the existing regulatory agreement.

5) Defines "extracted equity" to mean debt added to a HCD-regulated property that is not used for any of the following purposes:

a) Approved project rehabilitation work;

b) To pay off existing debt;

c) Replenishment of reserves; and,

d) Other HCD-approved project specific uses.

This bill:

1) Defines "department residual receipts share" as the portion of residual receipts, surplus cash, available cashflow, net cashflow, distributable cash, or other similar project cashflow distributions otherwise payable to HCD for the applicable fiscal year under the project's applicable financing documents and regulatory requirements, calculated after full satisfaction, or due provision for payment to all other lender, public agency, or governmental entity under the applicable note, regulatory agreement, deed of trust, residual receipts agreement, subordination agreement, intercreditor agreement, or other recorded operative project financing documents, as if no transfer authority under this bill existed.

2) Defines "excess reserves" as replacement reserves, in excess of the amount needed to fund immediate and short-term capital repair needs, as specified, within the preceding three years by a qualified independent third party, operating reserves, or project-specific transition reserves by the HCD regulatory agreement. Replacement reserves may not be transferred if doing so would reduce the balance below $1,000 per unit or if the project has not met or is not projected to meet the minimum annual replacement reserve deposit requirements.

3) Allows HCD to authorize the transfer of "residual receipts share" or "excess reserves" from one rental housing development, subject to a HCD regulatory agreement as equity, to another rental housing development that is owned by the same sponsor or affiliate.

4) Provides that no transfer shall reduce, offset, subordinate or otherwise impair any residual receipts, surplus cash, available cashflow, net cashflow, distributable case, reserve rights or other payment rights owed to any other lender, public agency, or governmental entity, including any city, county, or city and county, housing authority, successor agency, joint powers authority, or holder of federal, state, or local housing program loans.

Background

Affordable Housing Finance. The state finances affordable multifamily rental housing using a combination of loans, tax credits, and private activity bonds.

Unlike market rate housing, affordable housing does not have enough cash-flow from rents to support conventional financing. Affordable housing is provided to tenants whose household income are below the area median income (AMI). To qualify, very low-income tenants must make 60% or less of the AMI, and lower-income tenants must make only 80% or less of AMI. Tenants in affordable housing are only required to pay 30% of their income toward rent, so the state provides enough long-term subsidy to reduce the overall debt service on a development. HCD loans serve as the permanent financing that comes in once a development is complete to take out the predevelopment and construction loans a developer took on to construct the development. HCD loans are secured with a lien in first position on the property. Developments are also subject to a 55-year recorded regulatory agreement, which runs with the project. If a developer pays off an HCD loan before the covenants expire, the regulatory agreement is not extinguished, and the developer must continue to provide the units at an affordable rent for the length of the regulatory agreement to lower-income tenants.

Comments

Author's statement. "California continues to face a severe housing crisis, making the preservation of existing affordable housing more critical than ever. To help address this challenge, affordable housing providers need flexible financial tools to preserve their affordable housing units and maintain the long-term stability of their developments in the face of rising costs. AB 2020 seeks to address this by allowing the Department of Housing and Community Development to authorize the transfer of excess reserves or operating income between affordable housing developments owned by the same sponsor. This simple change will help stabilize developments facing financial challenges and protect California's existing supply of affordable housing."

Challenges Facing Affordable Housing Developments. Due to several factors including the depletion of operating reserves resulting from the COVID-19 rent moratorium and unprecedented increases in insurance rates, affordable housing developments are facing financial challenges. Enterprise Community Partners recently conducted a survey of 130 affordable properties and found that, on average, the developments were experiencing insurance cost increases of 70%, with some providers reporting increases up to 500%. Because rents are capped, these properties have fewer options to cover these increases. In some cases, the situation is made worse because the project's operating reserves have not recovered from the rent moratoriums. Due to these financial pressures, some

properties are at risk of foreclosure or becoming market-rate developments, which would eliminate vital affordable housing units.

Shifting excess between projects. To address the fiscal integrity of housing developments financed by HCD, this bill would give HCD the authority to allow for the transfer of excess reserves or residual receipts income from one rental housing development owned by the same developer to another development. Previous bills, AB 2638 (Ward, 2024), AB 515 (Ward, 2023), and AB 578 (Berman, 2023) have attempted to address a similar issue. Those bills allowed for the early payoff of an HCD loan, if approved by HCD. Those funds could be used to develop a new project. Last year, AB 130 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025), gave HCD authority to allow developers to utilize equity in their affordable housing projects to finance further investments in other affordable housing projects, purchase a limited partners interest of a tax credit investor in the project, pay any unpaid deferred developer fee for the project, and pay for necessary repairs and rehabilitation of the project.

This bill is different from AB 130 in that it allows for the transfer of excess reserves or HCD residual receipts share rather than project equity between developments with HCD financing, to alleviate financial challenges (*e.g.*, from increased insurance costs or loss of rental income). It also ensures that any funds owed to other entities, such as local governments, would still be paid.

Senate Appropriations Amendments. Author amendments clarify the definitions of HCD residual receipts and excess reserves, and provide that any transfers do not otherwise reduce payments owed to other lenders.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Staff estimates that the bill would create ongoing General Fund cost pressures, at least in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, to the extent HCD exercises the authority to establish and administer a program to provide for the transfer of reserves and operating revenues from one rental housing development to another owned by the same sponsor. The level of workload would vary depending on the number of transactions authorized, the complexity of the ownership structures, the financial condition of the involved projects, and the need to evaluate impacts on existing regulatory agreements, affordability covenants, and the involvement of other financing sources. While there would be no immediate direct costs to HCD since the authority is permissive, the bill

creates General Fund cost pressures to fund HCD's costs to establish such a program, should it exercise this discretionary authority. (General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California (Co-source)
The California Housing Partnership (Co-source)
Abode Housing Development
California Apartment Association
California Coalition for Rural Housing
California Housing Consortium
East Bay Housing Organizations
Eden Housing
Emeryville; City of
Enterprise Community Partners, INC.
Housing California
Housing Trust Silicon Valley
Leadingage California
Little Tokyo Service Center
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Napa Valley Community Housing
National Equity Fund
Resources for Community Development
Southern California Association of Non-profit Housing
Supportive Housing Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 11:22:05

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2023
Author: Wicks (D) and Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 6/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-1, 6/15/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Jones
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-1, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-8, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Companion chatbots: children's safety

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill seeks to comprehensively regulate companion chatbots with regard to children's safety, including imposition of a series of obligations and restrictions on operators that make such chatbots available in California.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires an operator to prevent a companion chatbot on its companion chatbot platform from engaging with users unless the operator maintains a protocol for preventing the production of suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm content to

the user, including, but not limited to, by providing a notification to the user that refers the user to crisis service providers, including a suicide hotline or crisis text line, if the user expresses suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm. Requires an operator to publish details on this protocol on the operator's website. (Business and Professions Code [Bus. & Prof. Code] § 22602(b).)

2) Requires an operator, if a reasonable person interacting with a companion chatbot would be misled to believe that the person is interacting with a human, to issue a clear and conspicuous notification indicating that the companion chatbot is artificially generated and not human. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22602(a).)

3) Requires an operator, for a user that the operator knows is a minor, to do all of the following:

   a) Disclose to the user that the user is interacting with AI.

   b) Provide by default a clear and conspicuous notification to the user at least every three hours for continuing companion chatbot interactions that reminds the user to take a break and that the companion chatbot is artificially generated and not human.

   c) Institute reasonable measures to prevent its companion chatbot from producing visual material of sexually explicit conduct or directly stating that the minor should engage in sexually explicit conduct. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22602(c).)

4) Defines the relevant terms, including:

   a) "Companion chatbot" means an AI system with a natural language interface that provides adaptive, human-like responses to user inputs and is capable of meeting a user's social needs, including by exhibiting anthropomorphic features and being able to sustain a relationship across multiple interactions. However, there are several exemptions included.

   b) "Companion chatbot platform" means a platform that allows a user to engage with companion chatbots.

   c) "Operator" means a person who makes a companion chatbot platform available to a user in the state. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22601.)

5) Requires an operator, beginning July 1, 2027, to annually report to the Office of Suicide Prevention specified information, which shall not include any

identifiers or personal information about users. Requires the Office of Suicide Prevention to post data from the reports on its website. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22603.)

6) Requires an operator to disclose to a user of its platform that companion chatbots may not be suitable for some minors, as provided. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22604.)

7) Provides that a person who suffers injury in fact as a result of a violation of this chapter may bring a civil action to recover all of the following relief:

   a) Injunctive relief.

   b) Damages in an amount equal to the greater of actual damages or $1,000 per violation.

   c) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22605.)

8) Establishes the Digital Age Assurance Act, which requires a developer to request a signal with respect to a particular user from an operating system provider or a covered application store when the application is downloaded and launched. A developer that receives such a signal is deemed to have actual knowledge of the age range of the user to whom that signal pertains across all platforms of the application and points of access of the application even if the developer willfully disregards the signal. (Civil [Civ.] Code § 1798.501(b).)

This bill:

1) Requires "operators," those who make a companion chatbot available to a user in the state, to verify the age of users consistent with the Digital Age Assurance Act, except as provided.

2) Imposes a series of obligations on operators to complete by July 1, 2027, including:

   a) Perform annual, comprehensive risk assessments to identify any child safety risks posed by the design, configuration, and operation of the companion chatbot, which shall assess specified factors.

   b) Take and document measures that reasonably mitigate any child safety risk.

   c) Publish and update a child safety policy.

d) Implement a documented crisis response protocol to mitigate any material risk that the companion chatbot will generate a statement that promotes suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm content to a child user, as specified.

e) Implement safeguards for child users that include usage reminders and disclosures, age-appropriate risk prompts, and other protective design features reasonably related to documented child safety risks.

f) Implement default settings that can only be changed by a parent, including, among others, push notification limitations and time limits.

g) Establish a mechanism for providing notice to a child user that the child is interacting with, or receiving content generated by, an AI system that meets specified criteria.

h) Implement measures that prevent the chatbot from engaging in certain specified behavior, such as encouraging children to self-harm or to cause certain harms to others; providing health advice; engaging in obscene matter; discouraging a child from certain healthy behaviors; advertising products during conversation; and producing overly sycophantic responses.

i) Implement parental controls, as specified, including ability to set preferences and time limits and to disable access for children under 16.

j) Create an interface design that ensures the companion chatbot's features and controls are accessible and clear so that children and parents can reasonably locate, understand, and use those protections. The design shall be annually tested to ensure compliance.

k) Establish a public incident reporting mechanism that enables a third party to report directly to the operator an incident regarding a child safety risk and to access other reports made through that reporting mechanism.

3) Prohibits the following actions by an operator:

a) Targeting advertising at a child using data about the child, including through product placement in conversational chats with the child.

b) Selling, sharing, or using the personal information of a child for any purpose not expressly authorized.

c) Designing, implementing, or deploying a user interface design, feature, or technique that is likely to mislead, impair, or interfere with a reasonable

child's or reasonable parent's autonomy, decision-making, or choice or with the ability to locate, understand, enable, or maintain a safety feature, privacy control, or parental control.

4) Requires the Attorney General (AG), on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt regulations regarding annual auditing of operators, including eligibility and standards to ensure auditor independence, procedures for auditors to assess compliance, and requirements for AI child safety audit reports.

5) Requires operators, within 180 days of the above regulations being promulgated and annually thereafter, to submit to an independent audit and to submit an AI child safety audit report to the AG thereafter. The report is confidential and the AG cannot disclose details, except as provided.

6) Requires the AG to do the following:

   a) Establish a public incident reporting mechanism for consumers to submit complaints relating to companion chatbots to the AG.

   b) Establish a process for qualified researchers to access anonymized and aggregated audit data for academic study of child safety in companion chatbots.

   c) Beginning January 1, 2028, issue an annual public report that includes specified components, including a high-level summary of each audit report, findings and trends, data on compliance rates and deficiencies, and recommendations for operators, parents, and policymakers.

7) Authorizes a public prosecutor to bring a civil action for violations seeking specified remedies, including civil penalties per violation. A child who suffers actual harm may also bring a civil action for actual damages and other relief.

8) Defines the relevant terms, including:

   a) "Child safety policy" means a public-facing document describing protective measures taken by an operator to mitigate identified child safety risks.

   b) "Child safety risk" means a reasonably foreseeable risk of a covered harm to a child.

   c) "Companion chatbot" has the meaning defined in Section 22601.

d) "Covered harm" means any of the following harms proximately caused by the use of a companion chatbot:

   i) Reasonably foreseeable physical or financial harm.

   ii) Severe and reasonably foreseeable psychological or emotional harm to a reasonable child.

   iii) A highly offensive intrusion on privacy rights protected by state or federal law.

   iv) Adverse discrimination in violation of state or federal law.

Background

AI companion chatbots created through generative AI have become increasingly prevalent. They seek to offer consumers the benefits of convenience and personalized interaction. These chatbots are powered by large language models that generally learn intimate details and preferences of users based on their interactions and user customization. Millions of consumers use these chatbots as friends, mentors, and even romantic partners.

Many studies and reports point to the addictive nature of these chatbots and call for more research into their effects and for meaningful guardrails. Increasing the urgency of such efforts, several high-profile incidents resulting in users harming themselves and even committing suicide have been reported in the last few years. This bill, and a companion bill, SB 1119 (Padilla, 2026), establish a framework for protecting children from these harms and empowering parents with proper tools to protect their own children. This bill lays out a series of obligations on operators and prohibits specified conduct. Operators must submit to annual independent audits and reporting by the AG is required. Public prosecutors and children harmed by violations are authorized to bring civil actions.

This bill is author-sponsored. It is supported by the Los Angeles Unified School District and other advocacy groups. It is opposed by various industry associations, including the California Chamber of Commerce. For a more thorough discussion of this bill, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Comment

According to the author:

> As the technological landscape continues to develop and rapidly grow, AI chatbots have become increasingly mainstream and more accessible and present new risks and harms to users, especially children. Our kids are navigating this new technology in real time without sufficient guardrails in place to protect them. To provide safeguards for children as they navigate these products, AB 2023 would require that chatbot companies provide meaningful guardrails to ensure that these products are safe for kids.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

$1.9 million in FY 2026-27, $4 million in FY 2027-28, $5.2 million in FY 2028-29, $4.9 million in FY 2029-30, $4.2 million annually thereafter to the Department of Justice for the Consumer Protection Section of the Public Rights Division, Public Inquiry Unit within the Directorate Division and Office of General Counsel. Information technology upgrades to the California Justice Information Services (CJIS) would be needed. (Unfair Competition Law Fund, General Fund)

Unknown, significant to major cost pressure to the courts to the extent there are additional civil filings for new violations created by this bill. Actual costs would depend on the number of operators in the state, violations and the amount of court time required for each action. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts. The FY 2026-07 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for support of the courts. (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

American Association of University Women, California
California Catholic Conference
California Initiative for Technology and Democracy
Common Sense Media
Los Angeles Unified School District
Omidyar Network
Project Liberty LLC
Transparency Coalition.AI

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

American Innovators Network
California Chamber of Commerce

California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CALCPA)
Civil Justice Association of California (CJAC)
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Insights Association
Software Information Industry Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Los Angeles Unified School District writes in support:

With its comprehensive framework for mitigating a broad array of potential chatbot-linked harms to minors, AB 2023 institutes or expands on meaningful guardrails including age verification technology, parental controls and oversight, and restrictions on targeted advertising through conversational chats. The measure further adds assurances that interventions as working as intended by requiring the chatbot operators to submit to independent 3rd party audits and establishing clear and enforceable legal oversight by state and local entities.

As generative AI technology rapidly spreads into countless aspects of work, education, and daily life, unregulated chatbots pose significant risks to vulnerable users such as children, who are still developing the critical and analytical faculties adults take for granted. Because chatbots mimic human interaction children may perceive chatbot interactions as having human-like knowledge, intentions, and authority, which can lead them to trust and follow recommendations even when those systems produce inaccurate or harmful responses.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, identify a number of areas they would like to see amended, including defining the relevant harms, the liability structure, and the restrictions on selling, sharing, or using children's personal information. As to the auditing provisions, the coalition argues:

> AB 2023's auditing provisions give rise to a host of concerns regarding unclear audit standards, a limited pool of qualified auditors, protections for sensitive business information, and broad AG disclosure authority, including to "qualified researchers". Without more objective statutory standards, audit findings may vary significantly across auditors, reducing their reliability and utility for both regulators and operators.
>
> While third-party audits can play a role in compliance frameworks, they also impose significant costs and may not reliably advance safety objectives for AI systems. Audits are most effective when conducted against clear, objective standards, which are not generally suited to trying to evaluate a

complex issue like the effects a platform has on minors. Here, auditors may be asked to evaluate highly subjective concepts such as emotional harm, autonomy, decisionmaking, and excessively sycophantic behavior. These are inherently difficult assessments that remain the subject of ongoing academic debate.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-8, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Flora, Gallagher, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/15/26 11:23:48

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2028
Author: Chen (R)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BANKING & F.I. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Grayson, Niello, Cervantes, Hurtado, Reyes, Richardson, Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 8/10/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Deferred deposit transactions: assessments

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) to include specified information in an invoice or assessment notice related to the annual pro rata assessment levied on licensees of the California Deferred Deposit Transaction Law.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 address potential chaptering conflicts with AB 2795. The amendments are nonsubstantive.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Provides the California Deferred Deposit Transaction Law (DDTL), a licensing framework administered by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) that regulates the provision of deferred deposit transactions (more commonly known as "payday loans"). (Division 10 of the Financial Code, commencing with Section § 23000)

2) Requires each licensee to pay its pro rata share of all costs and expenses incurred by DFPI in administering the DDTL, as specified. Provides that the assessment is the proportion that a licensee's total dollar amount of deferred deposit transactions made bears to the aggregate total dollar amount of deferred deposit transactions made by all DDTL licensees, as specified. Provides a minimum assessment amount of $250 per licensed location per year. (Financial Code Section § 23016)

This bill:

1) Requires DFPI to provide the following information in an invoice or assessment notice issued to a DDTL licensee:

   a) The total costs and expenses reasonably incurred in the administration of this division, as estimated by the commissioner, for the ensuing year.

   b) Any deficit actually incurred or anticipated in the administration of the program in the year in which the assessment is made.

   c) The aggregate total dollar amount of deferred deposit transactions made by all licensees.

   d) The licensee's total dollar amount of deferred deposit transactions.

   e) The number of license locations operated by the licensee.

Comments

The DFPI licenses and oversees a variety of businesses in the financial services industry, such as state-chartered banks and credit unions, money transmitters, nonbank lenders, mortgage lenders, debt collectors, and payday lenders. The costs incurred by DFPI in regulating these businesses are recovered through fees and assessments charged to licensed businesses. Rather than requiring the General Fund to cover these expenses, the regulated entities bear the costs.

The DDTL is a licensing law that covers lenders providing certain short-term credit instruments, familiarly known as "payday loans." In 2024, the author of this

bill authored AB 3148 (Chen, Chapter 252, Statutes of 2024) which shifted the apportionment of annual assessments under the DDTL from one based on physical locations to a pro rata model based primarily on a licensee's share of payday loans originated in the prior year. This change had the effect of increasing costs for payday lenders operating exclusively online while reducing costs for lenders that rely primarily on brick-and-mortar storefronts to originate payday loans.
The California Financial Service Providers (CFSP) is a trade association representing payday lenders and supporters of this bill. CFSP states the rationale for this bill in its support letter:

Last year, each licensee was unexpectedly faced with an annual assessment that was much higher than anticipated. Not only did DFPI neglect to provide licensees with any warning before issuing invoices, but the department also refused to provide an explanation afterwards. Licensees were left unable to determine whether higher costs stemmed from increased program expenses, deficit recovery, or other factors. This lack of transparency makes it difficult for the industry to budget and plan for future operations, a key component of running a business.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

This bill was reported out of Senate Appropriations Committee pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

California Financial Service Providers

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michael Burdick / B. & F.I. /
8/24/26 14:01:42

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2032
Author: Ransom (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: golden mussels

SOURCE: Contra Costa Water District
San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority

DIGEST: This bill 1) exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system from certain California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invasive mussel permitting requirements until an invasive mussel control plan is submitted, approved, or denied, as applicable; requires at least quarterly updating of an online map of invasive mussel observations by CDFW; and 2) requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels, among other provisions, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits, until January 1, 2030, a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §2301(a)).

2) Requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with CDFW to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that may occur in a water supply system. Requires the operator of the water supply system, if invasive mussels are detected, and in cooperation with CDFW, to prepare and implement a plan to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system, and eliminate or minimize any potential downstream transport of an invasive mussel (FGC §2301(d)).

   a) Requires all plans that do not specifically address invasive mussel species that are known to be present in bodies of water in the state as of January 1, 2026, to be updated or revised on or before September 30, 2027.

3) Requires any entity that discovers invasive mussels within the state to immediately report the discovery to CDFW (FGC §2301(e)).

4) Makes any person who violates the above provisions, violates any verbal or written order or regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions, or who resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with the implementation of these provisions subject to an administrative penalty (FGC §2301(f)).

5) Defines "invasive mussel" as any nonnative detrimental mussel species that is capable of spreading in freshwater and is listed in specific regulations adopted by the Fish and Game Commission (FGC §2303).

This bill:

1) States legislative intent to align permitting processes to better support the necessary rapid response to prevent serious impacts of golden mussels on water infrastructure, water supply systems and waterbodies and to support public and private agencies that operate those systems, as provided.

2) Exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system and has submitted an invasive mussel control plan to CDFW from any permit requirement for invasive mussels for maintenance, operational, and research activities within the water supply system, as provided.

3) Exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system and has submitted a control plan to CDFW from any permit requirement for dead invasive mussels for research, outreach, education, species verification, training, or other purposes in the best interest of the state, as specified.

4) Sunsets the exemptions in 2) and 3) above when CDFW either approves or denies a submitted invasive mussel control plan.

5) Requires CDFW's Invasive Species Program to develop by April 1, 2027, guidance for public and private agencies that operate water supply systems to develop effective invasive mussel control plans. Requires the guidance to include relevant protocols, example standards, and statutory requirements. Provides that compliance with the guidance is voluntary except as specified.

6) Requires CDFW's Invasive Species Program to develop and publish on CDFW's internet website by April 1, 2027, guidance for scientific research conducted by or for public and private agencies that operate water supply systems that is conducted outside of an infested water supply system and that includes mussel handling procedures to prevent and control the spread of invasive mussels, as provided. Requires the guidance to include mussel handling standards to minimize any potential negative impacts of the possession, transportation, and disposal of invasive mussels, as provided.

7) Requires CDFW to update the invasive mussel spatial distribution maps of infested water bodies posted on its internet website no less than quarterly based on monitoring and reported detections. Requires the maps to distinguish between reported and confirmed detection of invasive mussels and include the date of the most recent map update, as provided.

8) Requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to work with state and local agencies in order to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels. Requires CDFA to identify any tools available to assist a state or local agency response including an integrated pest management strategy or registered pesticide, as provided. Requires CDFA to help identify any existing processes that allow for the rapid use of any tool to address the invasive species threat, as provided.

9) Requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the regional water quality control boards to work with state and local agencies to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels. Requires the SWRCB to identify any tools available to assist in rapidly responding to the invasive species threat, as provided. Requires the SWRCB to help identify any existing

processes that allow for the rapid use of any tool that could be used to address the invasive species threat and enables a streamlined or faster process, as provided. Requires the SWRCB to help coordinate efforts between the regional water quality control boards in response to the threat of an invasive species.

10) Makes this act an urgency statute and justify the urgency due to the serious threat golden mussels pose to water infrastructure, water systems, water bodies and ecosystem health, as provided. Makes numerous relevant legislative findings and declarations.

[NOTE: Additional information regarding this bill can be found in the Senate Natural Resources and Water, and Environmental Quality Committees' analyses.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (General Fund) for CDFW to develop all identified best management practices and provide research guidance, among other things.

- The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) reports its fiscal estimate is unknown and could range from minor to the low hundreds of thousands of dollars. CDPR states that it is unable to determine an exact cost estimate at this time as it's unclear the range of work CDPR would be tasked with on invasive mussels as a result of this bill.

- The State Water Board and Regional Water Boards anticipate minor and absorbable costs and note the boards are actively engaging on this issue via the draft "Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges from Pest Control Applications to Waters of the United States," which provides regulatory coverage for the point source discharge of chemical and biological residual pesticides and other nonpesticidal products to waters of the United States from aquatic animal invasive species control applications.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Contra Costa Water District (co-source)
San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (co-source)
American Water Works Association, California-Nevada Section
Association of California Water Agencies
California Central Valley Flood Control Association

California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau
California Municipal Utilities Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Sacramento
CleanEarth4Kids.org
County of Kern
County of Los Angeles
County of San Joaquin
County of Shasta
El Dorado Irrigation District
Grassland Water District
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Northern California Water Association
Regional Water Authority
San Gabriel Valley Water Association
SePRO Corporation
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Western Growers Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Golden mussels are an invasive species that threaten California's waterways, ports, and agriculture. First detected in the San Joaquin Delta in October 2024, golden mussels have spread rapidly throughout the state, now reaching as far south as San Diego, causing significant harm to water infrastructure, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems. These costly damages have a direct impact on water affordability and access to our farms and our families. Current law requires a multitude of permits across state agencies, creating barriers for local water agencies to respond quickly and effectively. This ongoing crisis must be addressed with urgency. AB 2032 would expedite onerous and lengthy permitting processes across state agencies to ensure local water agencies can effectively respond to prevent, mitigate, control, and eradicate golden mussels from California's waterways."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon,

Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/17/26 10:47:38

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2035
Author: Dixon (R)
Amended: 4/22/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Common interest developments: declarations: amendments

SOURCE: Third Laguna Hills Mutual

DIGEST: This bill allows a superior court to approve a change to the governing documents in a homeowner's association (HOA), meeting specified criteria, if the change is approved by 37% of the owners, rather than 50%.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that an HOA or a member of an HOA may petition the superior court of the county to reduce the percentage of affirmative votes required to amend a declaration when the declaration requires more than 50% approval of the membership, or members having more than 50% of the votes in more than one class in a voting structure with more than one class.

2) Establishes that the petition must include documentation such as the governing documents, the full amendment text, copies of any solicitation materials, an explanation of the reason for amendment, and vote results.

3) Provides that the court may approve the amendment if it finds that:

   a) Proper notice of the hearing was given to specified parties (at least 15 days);

   b) The balloting complied with governing documents and applicable law;

   c) A reasonably diligent effort was made to permit all eligible members to vote;

   d) More than 50% of the votes actually cast supported the amendment, including a majority of each required voting class; and,

   e) The amendment is reasonable and approval is not otherwise improper.

4) Authorizes the court to confirm the amendment as validly approved on the basis of affirmative votes actually received during the balloting period; after making the findings required in 3).

5) Provides that an amendment is not effective until it has been recorded in every county in which the HOA is located. Provides that amendment shall have the same force and effect as if the amendment were adopted in compliance with every requirement imposed by the governing documents.

6) Requires after recordation, the HOA deliver an individual notice to all members with a copy of the amendment.

This bill:

1) Adds an option for HOA members to approve amendments to their governing documents with 37% of the vote of the owners, rather than the standard 50% threshold, by petitioning a superior court, if all of the following are met:

   a) The HOA is a senior citizen housing development;

   b) The HOA has more than 6,000 separate interests (units);

   c) More than 25% of the separate interests are occupied by tenants; and,

   d) The declaration has not been amended in at least 35 years.

Background

Davis-Stirling Act (Act). The Act went into effect in 1986 and is the primary state law governing Common Interest Developments (CIDs) and HOAs in California. The Act provides the legal framework for the creation and management of HOAs, including rules related to governance, assessments, dispute resolution, maintenance responsibilities, and member rights. The law aims to balance the authority of HOAs with the rights of individual property owners, ensuring that communities are managed efficiently and fairly. Over time, the Act has been amended to address the evolving needs of CIDs and HOAs, including increased transparency, accountability, and consumer protections. Key provisions of the Act include requirements for open meetings, financial disclosures, election procedures, and architectural review processes. The Act also provides mechanisms for resolving disputes, including dispute resolutions before certain legal actions can proceed. As the majority of new housing construction in California is part of an HOA, the Act plays a critical role in shaping the environment and governance of these communities and the tens of millions of residents who reside in them.

Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs). CC&Rs are the legally binding documents that establish the rules, restrictions, and rights that impact all HOA members, covering everything from architectural standards to pet policies to how the association itself is governed. Because CC&Rs are recorded against the property, they run with the land, binding current owners to the governing documents, as well as any future owners of a separate interest. CC&Rs often require amendments to address the changing needs of any given community. However, amending an HOA's CC&Rs is intentionally difficult. Most declarations require approval from a supermajority of all members, often ranging from 50-75% of all HOA members, not just all voting members. In a large HOA development, this can mean thousands of individual owners must affirmatively cast ballots. This can present logistical challenges even under the best circumstances, as HOA voting rates tend to be low.

Under the Act, there is a process through which HOA members can seek to address this difficulty in obtaining a majority of votes of all HOA members: if an amendment to the HOA's CC&Rs falls short of the voting threshold required by the HOA documents, an HOA or member can petition a superior court to approve the amendment anyway, so long as the court finds the process was fair, the effort to reach members was diligent, and the amendment is reasonable. But even under the court petition process in existing law, at least 50% of members must have voted in favor of the proposed amendment. This bill reflects a unique situation in which,

even under good faith attempts to meet the 50% voter threshold requirement, a large HOA has been unable to and cannot update their CC&Rs via this process.

Comments

Author's statement. "AB 2035 provides a commonsense solution to allow large, senior citizen common interest developments to amend significantly out of date declarations when they are unable to reach quorum requirements established by their CC&Rs. Some HOAs, such as Third Laguna Hills Mutual, are unable to meet quorum requirements for amendments to their CC&Rs and the current statutory alternative to reduce quorum requirements to 50% is insufficient. AB 2035 creates an additional alternative to reduce quorum requirements to 37% when the common interest development meets specified conditions. Specifically, the common interest development is required to be a senior citizen housing development, must contain at least 6,000 separate interest, more than 25% of those interests are occupied by non-owner residents, and that the development's declaration has not been amended in 35 years. This alternative will allow large, senior citizen developments to amend their CC&Rs when they are unable to meet quorum requirements while maintaining strong guardrails to ensure an equitable outcome. By maintaining the existing court petition process used for quorum reduction requests, AB 2035 ensures that this exception will only be used in specific, unique and necessary situations."

A very narrow solution. The Third Laguna Hills Mutual HOA is the largest HOA within the broader Laguna Hills Village—a massive residential community for senior citizens in Orange County which comprises over 90% of the city of Laguna Hills. With over 6,000 units, many of which are owned by people living abroad and/or not within the community full-time, the community has faced major obstacles to updating its CC&Rs, and has been unable to do so since 1988, leaving many provisions of these governing documents out of compliance with changes in state HOA law. That inability is not for a lack of trying. The association has spent hundreds of hours and well over $100,000 trying to turn out the vote in two separate elections, with the hope of at least meeting the voter threshold to petition CC&R amends to the superior court. However, even with these extensive and costly efforts, the HOA has only managed to get approximately 40% of their membership to vote. This stalemate has left crucial governing documents out-of-date and unreflective of not only statutory changes, but also modern advances in HOAs, like the need to regulate the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations, as well as virtual mediums for delivering notices and conducting certain business.

While this bill's allowance of sub-majority (37%) approval as eligible for a superior court petition could raise concerns about democratic governance, the bill seems well-tailored to only impact this specific community and enable its members to benefit from clearer, up-to-date governing documents. Given the high costs associated with the two election turnouts, it is worth considering how those costs may be passed onto the members, some of whom may be on fixed incomes due to their age and/or retirement status. Additionally, this bill does not mean amendments to the CC&Rs will automatically be granted upon meeting the lower threshold—the presiding Superior Court Judge will retain authority to ensure all processes were followed and that amendments proposed are reasonable and comply with all relevant statutes.

While exact data on the average membership size of age-restricted senior HOAs is difficult to obtain, the California Association of HOAs reports that the average size of an HOA in California is 276 residents.[1] Taking that figure, compared to the more than 6,000 residents in the Third Laguna Hills Mutual HOA, it is not clear whether concerns about other communities seeking similar carveouts would bear out. Due to the unique size and ownership characteristics of this specific HOA, and the fact that essential governing documents have not been updated in more than three decades, there seems to be clear rationale as to why this targeted solution is a standalone one.

Opposition. The California Association of Realtors (CAR) wrote the following in opposition to the bill, "While senior communities often have high levels of engagement, proposed amendments can sometimes be legally problematic, creating governance and enforcement challenges. Additionally, creating a special exemption for one HOA sets a concerning precedent."

Double-referral. This bill is also referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2692 (Irwin, 2026) — would allow an HOA whose CC&Rs expired prior to a natural disaster, as defined, to reinstate those CC&Rs with majority approval of the membership of the HOA. *This bill is currently pending in the Assembly.*

AB 1458 (Ta, Chapter 303, Statutes of 2023) — authorized a lower quorum requirement for HOA elections of directors under specified circumstances.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

[1] The California Associations of Homeowners Associations. *Our Objective HOA Data & Statistics.* Accessible here: **https://www.calassoc-hoa.com/about-us/our-objective-hoa-data-statistics/**.

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/22/26)

Third Laguna Hills Mutual (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/22/26)

California Association of Realtors

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters of the bill argue that it is a precise measure intended to empower a single HOA community that experiences unique challenges and has been unable to update its CC&Rs for nearly four decades.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Opponents of the bill argue that it could set a concerning precedent from which many other HOAs would ask for lower thresholds to petition changes and depress homeowner involvement in decisions.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Ryan Hardmeyer / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
7/30/26 14:49:23

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2047
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-19, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Firearms: 3-dimensional printing blocking technology

SOURCE: Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund

DIGEST: This bill makes it unlawful to sell or transfer a three-dimensional (3-D) printer in California that is not equipped with firearm blocking technology or not listed on the Department of Justice's (DOJ) list of three-dimensional printers for which the manufacturer has submitted a complete self-attestation that the printer is equipped with firearm blocking technology; requests that ASTM International develop industry standards for firearm blocking technology for three-dimensional printer manufacture use; requires the DOJ to quarterly check whether ASTM International has published industry standards, as specified; requires the DOJ to publish guidance or regulations for firearm blocking technology adopting some or all of ASTM International's industry standards, if the DOJ determines that ASTM

International published such industry standards by July 1, 2029, or guidance or regulations adopting some or all of industry standards from another state governmental entity if ASTM International does not publish industry standards by the date and the DOJ determines that a state governmental entity outside of California has published such standards; requires the DOJ to publish a list of three-dimensional printers for which the manufacturers have submitted a self-attestation that the printer is equipped with firearm blocking technology; and provides a cause of action for a violation of these provisions, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act (FIRA) to prohibit firearm industry members from dealing in abnormally dangerous firearm-related products. Requires a firearm industry member to comply with the firearm industry standard of conduct, and makes it a violation of the firearm industry standard of conduct for a firearm industry member to fail to comply with specified provisions, including establishing, implementing, and enforcing reasonable controls. (Civil (Civ.) Code, §§ 3273.50 et seq.)

2) Specifies that a firearm-related product includes a "firearm manufacturing machine," and defines, for the purposes of FIRA, "firearm manufacturing machine" to mean a three-dimensional printer, as defined, a computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine, or a similar machine, that is marketed or sold, or is reasonably designed or intended to be used, to manufacture or produce firearms, firearm components, or firearm accessories. (Civ. Code § 32783.50(d).)

3) Authorizes a person who has suffered harm because of a firearm industry member's conduct, the Attorney General, a city attorney, and a county counsel to bring an action in court under FIRA for a violation of the firearm industry standard of conduct. (Civ. Code § 3273.52.)

4) Permits a civil action to be brought against a person who knowingly distributes or causes to be distributed, by any means, including the internet, any digital firearm manufacturing code to any other person in this state who is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, a member of the Armed Forces, or any law enforcement agency or forensic laboratory, as specified, or who commits specified criminal acts related to firearms. (Civ. Code § 3273.61.)

5) Prohibits a person from selling, offering to sell, transferring, advertising, or marketing a CNC milling machine or three-dimensional printer in a manner that knowingly or recklessly causes another person in the state to engage in conduct prohibited by Penal Code section 29185, or in a manner that otherwise knowingly or recklessly aids, abets, promotes, or facilitates conduct prohibited by that section.
   a) Creates a rebuttable presumption that a person is engaged in this prohibited conduct if they offer to sell, advertise, or market a CNC milling machine or three-dimensional printer in a manner that, under the totality of the circumstances, is targeted at purchasers seeking to manufacture firearms or that otherwise affirmatively promotes the machine or printer's ability to manufacture firearms, and the person sells or transfers the CNC milling machine or three-dimensional printer without verifying that the purchaser or transferee in this state is a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or not otherwise prohibited, as specified. (Civ. Code § 3273.62.)

6) Makes it unlawful to knowingly, willfully, or recklessly cause another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, or to knowingly, willfully, or recklessly aid, abet, promote, or facilitate the unlawful manufacture of firearms. (Civ. Code § 3273.625.)

7) Defines "firearm" to mean a device, designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled through a barrel, a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion. (Pen. Code § 16520.)

This bill:

1) Establishes the "California Firearm Printing Prevention Act," and defines for the Act the following:
   a) "Department" to mean the Department of Justice;
   b) "firearm" to mean the definition of firearm in Penal Code section 16520;
   c) "firearm blocking technology" to mean hardware, firmware, or other integrated technological measures capable of ensuring a three-dimensional printer will not proceed to any print job unless the underlying three-dimensional printing file has been evaluated by a firearms blueprints detection algorithm and determined not to be a printing file that would produce a firearm or illegal firearm parts;
   d) "firearm blueprint detection algorithm" to mean a software service that evaluates three-dimensional printing files, whether in the form of stereolithography (STL) files or other computer-aided design files or

geometric code, to determine if the files can be used to program a three-dimensional printer to produce a firearm or illegal firearm parts, and flags any such files to prevent their use to manufacture a firearm or illegal firearm parts;

e) "firearm precursor part" to have the same meaning as it is defined in Penal Code section 16531;
f) "firmware design" to mean integration of a firearms blueprint detection algorithm directly into a three-dimensional printer's firmware, such that any geometric code received by the printer must be evaluated by the algorithm before the printer will proceed to print, and such that the printer will reject print jobs identified by the algorithm because they would direct the printer to print firearms or illegal firearm parts;
g) "illegal firearm parts" to mean a firearm precursor part and any part designed and intended for use in converting a semiautomatic weapon into a machine gun, including, but not limited to, a pistol convertor;
h) "integrated pre-print software design" to mean a limitation of a three-dimensional printer's operation to accept geometric code for printing exclusively from a single slicer or other preprint software, which may be the manufacturer's proprietary software, and integration of a firearm blueprint detection algorithm into that pre-print software, such that any STL file or other computer-aided design file must be evaluated by the algorithm before the software will proceed to produce geometric code, and such that the software will not produce geometric code for files that are identified by the algorithm because they would direct the printer to print firearms or illegal firearm parts;
i) "Pistol convertor" to have the same meaning as it is defined in Penal Code section 17015;
j) "Software controls process" to mean a system designed to stop a three-dimensional printer from initiating any print job unless the underlying three-dimensional printing file has been evaluated by a firearm blueprint detection algorithm and determined not to be a printing file that would produce a firearm or illegal firearm parts; and
k) "Three-dimensional printer" to have the same meaning as defined in Civil Code section 3273.60.

2) Requests ASTM International to develop industry standards for firearms blocking technology consistent with this section for three-dimensional printer manufacturer use in order to comply with these sections, and encourages these industry standards to require that firearm blueprint detection algorithms have the capacity, with a high degree of accuracy, to:

a) Evaluate three-dimensional printing files, whether in the form of STL files or other computer-aided design files or geometric code;
b) Detect and identify any such files that can be used to instruct a three-dimensional printer to produce a firearm or illegal firearm parts; and
c) Flag any disallowed files for print rejection by a software control process.

3) Specifies that the industry standards for firearm blueprint detection algorithms are encouraged to require that, at a minimum, firearm blueprint detection algorithms have the capacity to utilize information from an inventory of disallowed firearm blueprint files that have been commonly shared on internet forums to detect those files and modified versions of those files, and, in order to meet these requirements, permits the standards to require blueprint detection algorithms to receive updated information from an inventory of firearm blueprint files and illegal firearm parts blueprint files, including but not limited to, a library maintained by any state agency or out-of-state agency, academic institution, or nongovernmental entity.

4) Specifies that Civil Code section 3273.61 does not apply to a person or entity who distributes, or causes the distribution of, a digital firearm manufacturing code, including firearms blueprint files and illegal firearm parts blueprint files, solely for the bona fide purpose of developing, refining, and testing the functionality of firearm blocking technology or maintaining an updated library of digital firearm manufacturing code files solely for that bona fide purpose.

5) Encourages the industry standards for firearm blueprint algorithms to include standards for acceptable false-positive and false-negative rates in detection algorithm performance, but prohibits the standards from requiring that a firearm blueprint detection algorithm produce a false-negative rate of zero corresponding to a perfect success rate at detecting disallowed files, as specified.

6) Encourages the industry standards for firearm blueprint detection algorithms to require that the firearm blueprint detection algorithm have the capacity to implement regular updates to the set of disallowed firearm files it has the capacity to detect, to an extent and frequency that reasonably considers the rate of innovation for the design and availability of new firearm blueprint files, as specified, and encourages the industry standards to include a process for periodically reviewing emerging detection software techniques, including advanced forms of image recognition and geometric search functionality.

7) Encourages the industry standards for software controls processes to include minimum standards on developer testing to confirm an acceptably low level of evasion with identified design files for firearms and illegal firearm parts, and prohibits the industry standards from requiring that a software controls process produces a perfect success rate at preventing a user from evading a firearms blueprint detection algorithm.

8) Encourages the industry standards for software controls processes to set out options for design forms that may be used for a software controls process integration into a three-dimensional printer, including that the standards-setting process shall consider: firmware design; integrated pre-print software design; and any other form, including handshake authentication design or other design forms directed towards open-source compatibility, if the software controls process meets all performance requirements of the standard and is either at least as effective or at least as resistant to being defeated by a technically skilled user as the above-listed design forms, as specified.

9) Encourages the industry standards for software controls processes to include both: for firmware design, guidance for how vendors are required to demonstrate that their technology will ensure a printer directs potential print jobs to the algorithm before printing; and for integrated pre-print software design, guidance for how vendors must demonstrate that printers will accept print jobs exclusively through authorized and validated software systems, as specified.

10) Encourages the industry standards for software controls processes to require that software controls processes have the capacity, to a high degree of reliability, to substantially reduce the likelihood of foreseeable circumvention attempts intended to evade a firearms blueprint detection algorithm.

11) Requires, from July 1, 2027 to July 1, 2029, that the DOJ check on a quarterly basis whether ASTM International has published industry standards for firearm blocking technology.
    a) If the DOJ determines by July 1, 2029 that ASTM International has published or adopted industry standards for firearm blocking technology, requires the DOJ to publish written guidance or regulations within 18 months after determining that ASTM International has published industry standards for firearm blocking technology. Requires this written guidance or regulations to incorporate some or all of the industry standards published by ASTM International, and to establish that compliance with the industry standards constitutes compliance with the requirement that

manufacturers equip three-dimensional printers sold in California with firearm blocking technology, except as otherwise required.

b) If the DOJ determines ASTM International has not published such industry standards by July 1, 2029, requires the DOJ to determine, on or before August 1, 2029, whether a state governmental entity outside California has published or adopted industry standards for firearm blocking technology after a good-faith investigation of the available technology. If the DOJ determines by August 1, 2029 that another state governmental entity has published or adopted industry standards for firearm blocking technology, requires the DOJ to publish written guidance or regulations no later than 18 months that describe the minimum performance standards for firearm blocking technology that a three-dimensional printer manufacturer must meet to comply with these provisions. Requires that this guidance or regulations incorporate some or all of the industry standards, and establishes that compliance with those industry standards constitutes compliance with the requirement that manufacturers equip three-dimensional printers sold in California with firearm blocking technology, except as otherwise required.

c) If the DOJ determines on July 1, 2029 that ASTM International did not publish industry standards for firearm blocking technology because ASTM International determined that it is not technologically feasible for three-dimensional printers to be equipped with firearm blocking technology, prohibits the DOJ from making any further determinations regarding whether a state governmental entity outside California has published or adopted industry standards, as specified.

12) Requires, six months after the publication of DOJ's performance standards or regulations, as specified, that any business that produces or manufactures three-dimensional printers for sale or transfer in California to submit to the DOJ an attestation, for each make and model of printer they intend to sell in California, that the manufacturer has equipped the printer with a firearm blueprint detection algorithm and a software controls process, and which confirms that the manufacturer tested and confirmed the functionality of the firearm blocking technology.

a) Provides the Attorney General with the authority to investigate and inspect the submission and the models if the attestation is incomplete or there exists information that indicates that the make and model may not be effectively equipped with firearm blocking technology, as specified. Specifies that any make and model of three-dimensional printer under investigation and inspection may be identified as having an incomplete attestation.

b) Permits a self-attestation form to include instructions to manufacturers on how to test the functionality of firearm blocking technology and how to submit the self-attestation form.
c) Requires the self-attestation to include: the make and model of the three-dimensional printer; confirmation that the manufacturer has equipped that make and model with a firearm blocking technology; confirmation of testing the functionality of the firearm blocking technology once installed as specified; and confirmation that the attestation form is submitted under penalty of perjury.

13) Requires the DOJ, nine months after the publication of the DOJ's performance standards or regulations, as specified, to publish a list of the makes and models of three-dimensional printers that have complete attestations, and of any makes and models that have an incomplete attestation. Requires this list to be updated no less frequently than on a quarterly basis and be made accessible on the DOJ's website, and requires the retailers and distributors of three-dimensional printers to consult the list to ensure their inventory consists of compliant three-dimensional printers.

14) Requires a business that produces or manufactures three-dimensional printers to, before any three-dimensional printer is offered, sold, transferred, or distributed to any person or business in California:
a) equip the printer with firearm blocking technology that meets the performance standards published by the DOJ;
b) submit a self-attestation of installation of the firearm blocking technology to the DOJ.

15) Specifies that any business that sells, offers to sell, distributes, or transfers a three-dimensional printer in California must consult the DOJ's list. Makes it unlawful to sell or transfer a three-dimensional printer in California that is not equipped with a firearm blocking technology and is not listed on the DOJ's list.

16) Does not apply the requirements described in 15) through 16), above, to:
a) Printers manufactured for and sold exclusively to a state-licensed firearms manufacturer, as defined;
b) Printers manufactured for and sold exclusively to the state or law enforcement agencies of the United States for the manufacturing of firearms for law enforcement or military purposes;

c) Printers manufactured exclusively for or sold directly to aerospace, biomedical, automotive, or chemical or mechanical engineering companies or government contractors, except that software required by these provisions must be installed prior to the resale of the printer to a user outside of these exempted industries;
d) Printers used exclusively for the manufacture of properties (props) in the entertainment industry; or
e) Printers sold or transferred in private transactions that were originally purchased before the publication of the DOJ's list.

17) Permits a civil action against a person who sells, offers to sell, or transfers a three-dimensional printer in California that is not equipped with firearm blocking technology, and against a person who knowingly files an attestation containing false information. For a civil action for selling a printer without firearm blocking technology, it is an affirmative defense against a retailer, distributor, wholesaler, importer, or other transferor that they only sold or transferred the three-dimensional printer after verifying that that it was on the DOJ's list as having a complete attestation.

18) Permits a person who suffers harm in California as a result of a violation of these provisions to bring a civil action pursuant to 18), above, and permits such a person to seek compensatory damages as well as injunctive relief. Additionally permits the Attorney General, county counsel, or a city attorney to bring an action for a violation of these provisions, and permits them to seek a civil penalty of no more than $25,000 for each violation as well as injunctive relief. Specifies that a prevailing plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

19) Makes the provisions described in 15) through 18), above, operative six months after the publication of the list of three-dimensional printers whose manufacturers have submitted complete self-attestations.

20) Permits the DOJ to promulgate regulations and develop forms and publications to implement the requirements of this bill, including but not limited to, procedures for manufacturers to update their attestation forms when industry standards have been updated and to specify the process for submitting attestation forms for new models of three-dimensional printers introduced after the timeline for self-attestations, and permits the DOJ to adopt regulations that provide for exceptions to these provision that is consistent with the purpose of these provisions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Costs to DOJ to establish and operate this program overall are unquantifiable and will require the hiring of personnel and securing technological expertise outside DOJ's existing scope and capabilities (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund (source)
American Academy of Pediatrics
Asian American Christian Collaborative
Beverly Hills High School Students Demand Action
Brady California
Brady United Against Gun Violence
California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
California Medical Association
California Police Chiefs Association
CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Chapman University Students Demand Action
City of Alameda
City of Los Angeles
City of Santa Rosa
Former City Attorney Mike Feuer, City of Los Angeles
Giffords
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Indivisible Mid-peninsula
Jewish California
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Newtown Action Alliance
Prosecutors Alliance Action
Riverside County Democratic Party
San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention
San Diego City Attorney
San Diego County School Board Association
Students Demand Action At UC Davis
Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
UCLA Students Demand Action
Youth Alive!

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

3D Printing Nerd
ACLU California Action
California Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc.
Citizens Privacy Coalition of Santa Clara County
Community Manufacturing Initiative
Democratic Socialists of America - San Diego
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Esaero, Inc.
Fight for the Future
Free Software Foundation
Fulu Foundation
Gray Area
Gun Owners of California, Inc.
Ifixit
Inspired Flight Technologies
Invisible Pack Inc.
Make Good Inc.
Mantis Composites Inc.
Matterhackers
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legislative Action
Noisebridge Hackerspace
Oakland Privacy
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Prusa Usa, Inc.
Root Access Hackerspace
Secure Resilient Future Foundation
See3d, Inc.
Software Freedom Conservancy
Streamline Aerospace
Sudo Room Hackerspace
Thangs Inc.
Trust Automation
Zone 5 Technologies
West3d LLC

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, the sponsor of this bill:

> The 3D printed gun crisis is not a faraway or abstract problem. It's happening here in California, right now. And at the rate it's increasing, this

crisis will get much worse if we don't use every tool we have. In just the six month span between September 2025 - February 2026, numerous instances of 3-D printed firearm manufacturing were uncovered by law enforcement agencies all around California. These incidents often include teenagers too young to legally purchase the types of firearms they are printing at home.

- In September 2025, Yuba County Sheriffs uncovered a "fully operational 3D-printing workshop" run by three men aged 19-38 and seized 8 handguns, several 3-D printed handgun frames, four assault weapons, one rifle, and assorted firearms parts.
- In October 2025, the Santa Clara County DA's Gun Violence Task Force arrested a man who was on probation for domestic violence running a ghost gun manufacturing operation out of his apartment. The press release paints an alarming picture: "When task force members entered the prohibited person's home, they found the 3D gun printer still working inside a closet, two loaded weapons, three nearly finished weapons, and 35 machine gun conversion devices. All of the weapons were considered "ghost guns" – made and sold with no serial number to avoid tracing and detection."
- In November 2025, Santa Rosa Police detectives found an 18-year-old running a ghost gun manufacturing operation in his apartment, less than two years after arresting a 14-year-old illegally manufacturing a ghost gun with a 3-D printer.
- In February 2026, 3D-printed firearms were recovered in at least four more newsworthy incidents, spread around the state:
    - Law enforcement in Santa Rosa seized over 165 guns and three 3D printers from a 22-year-old ghost guns manufacturer.18
    - Victor Valley sheriffs found a 3D-printed assault rifle, over 130 Polymer80 jigs, 3D printer materials and a 3D printing guide for different firearms in a Lucerne Valley ghost guns arrest involving a man who was previously indicted and pled guilty for manufacturing guns for a gun trafficker.19
    - A San Jose teenager was arrested with 27 finished or near-finished 3D-printed firearms, including DIY machine guns, and two 3D printers near his sneaker collection in his bedroom.
    - A Daly City narcotics and identity theft investigation led to uncovering a San Francisco residence with several 3D-printed firearms, rifle components, and a 3D printer. […]

3D-printing firearms is the next wave of the ghost guns crisis, a problem California has been battling for years. The threat is evolving and our policy

solutions need to evolve too. AB 2047 gives us a chance to get a step ahead of the criminals running underground ghost gun selling operations and the teenagers tempted to use a home 3-D printer in their bedroom or basement to print a deadly weapon. […]

While California's recent laws have focused on prohibition and deterrence, AB 2047 provides an opportunity for prevention using new technology to stop 3D gun printing at its source. We can't fully address this emerging threat to our foundational gun laws and public safety without an intervention at the manufacturing stage. And there's good news on this front: the technology already exists to equip printers to identify and block these dangerous firearm print jobs. AB 2047 will simply ensure that printer manufacturers actually deploy these technological solutions and stop the spread of DIY firearms before it accelerates any further.

Specifically, AB 2047 creates a new requirement that 3D printers sold in California must be equipped with firearm printing blocking technology by March 2029. The law will primarily be enforced through civil mechanisms similar to the existing Firearm Industry Responsibility Act (Civil Code section 3273.50 et seq.) and existing laws allowing for civil actions to enjoin Unlawful Firearm Manufacturing (Civil Code section 3273.60). The bill sets out a staged implementation process to evaluate and certify the underlying components of firearm printing blocking technology before imposing any kind of requirement on 3D printer manufacturers.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to the California Rifle & Pistol Association, which opposes AB 2047:

While framed as preventing unlawful manufacturing, this bill represents a costly, impractical, and constitutionally problematic burden on innovation, small businesses, and lawful hobbyists.

Key concerns:

- Technological Impracticality and Ineffectiveness: Detection algorithms and software controls can be evaded by technically skilled individuals through modifications, open-source alternatives, or altered files. Criminals will simply ignore the mandates or obtain printers out-of-state, while law-abiding makers and innovators face unnecessary barriers.

- Burdensome Regulation and Costs: Mandatory certification, attestations, testing, and quarterly DOJ lists will drive up prices for 3D printers, harm small businesses and California's emerging tech sector, and stifle hobbyist innovation in areas far beyond firearms (prototyping, education, manufacturing).
- Constitutional Issues: The bill imposes prior restraints and technological mandates on tools that have substantial lawful uses, raising serious Second Amendment concerns under Bruen and due process issues. It effectively creates a de facto ban on non-compliant printers for most consumers.
- Bureaucratic Overreach: Placing the DOJ in charge of certifying complex software algorithms and policing printer sales adds layers of red tape without meaningfully addressing criminal activity, which is already illegal under existing manufacturing prohibitions.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-19, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Ian Dougherty / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/18/26 13:05:12

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2051
Author: Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/25/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-6, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public resources: coastal resources: Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) authorizes the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) to retroactively extend for up to 5 years any time limitation established for a local government to act on the Coastal Commission's suggested modifications to a land use plan amendment that would authorize approval of a 100% affordable housing development which otherwise expired, as provided; and 2) requires the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group to develop a Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap by July 1, 2028 with recommendations for process improvements and legislative reforms to enable efficient environmental permitting of coastal resilience projects statewide, as provided

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Coastal Act) which:

   a) Establishes the Coastal Commission in the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

   b) Requires each local government in the coastal zone to prepare a local coastal program (LCP) for that portion of the coastal zone within its jurisdiction, as provided. Requires the precise content of each LCP to be determined by the local government in full consultation with the Coastal Commission and full public participation. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §30500)

      i) Each LCP includes a land use plan and an implementation plan. The land use plan contains policies and the implementation plan includes accompanying measures to implement the land use plan, including zoning ordinances, and zoning district maps, among others.

   c) Authorizes the Coastal Commission for good cause to extend for up to one year any time limitation established related to the preparation, approval, and certification of a LCP.

   d) Provides for the planning and regulation of development within the coastal zone.

      i) A person planning to perform or undertake any development in the coastal zone is required to obtain a coastal development permit (CDP) from the Coastal Commission or local government enforcing an LCP certified by the Coastal Commission.

      ii) The coastal zone means the coastal land and waters of California, and includes the lands that extend inland generally 1,000 yards from the mean high tide line, as specified, with various exceptions including the San Francisco Bay.

      iii) Development means, among other things, the placement or erection of any solid material or structure on land or in water.

   e) Requires the Coastal Commission to take into account the effects of sea level rise in coastal resources planning and management policies and activities in order to identify, assess, and, to the extent feasible, avoid and mitigate the adverse effects of sea level rise. (PRC §30270)

2) Establishes the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC): (Government Code (GOV) §§66600 *et seq*.)

   a) BCDC, among other things, is required to address emerging issues and to implement comprehensive plans for the preservation and protection of San

Francisco Bay and the Suisun Marsh, including preparedness for, and resilience to, rising sea levels, tides, and storm surge due to climate change. BCDC has adopted the San Francisco Bay Plan, which is a comprehensive plan that addresses the development of the bay and shoreline.

3) Requires a local government lying within the coastal zone or the San Francisco Bay shoreline to develop a sea level rise plan as part of a LCP or subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan subject to BCDC's approval, as provided.

   a) Requires local governments to comply by January 1, 2034.

   b) Requires the Coastal Commission and BCDC to establish guidelines for the sea level rise plan, as provided.

   c) Requires local governments that receive Coastal Commission or BCDC approval of their sea level rise plans be prioritized for funding, subject to appropriation, for the implementation of sea level rise adaptation strategies and recommended projects in the approval sea level rise plan. (PRC §§30985, 30985.2, 30985.5)

This bill:

1) In addition to existing law authorizing the Coastal Commission to extend certain deadlines by up to one year, authorizes the Coastal Commission to retroactively extend for up to five years any time limitation established for a local government to act on the Coastal Commission's suggested modifications to a land use plan amendment that would authorize approval of a 100% affordable housing development which otherwise expired between January 1, 2025 and December 1, 2026, as provided.

2) Requires the Secretary of CNRA (CNRA Secretary) to develop a Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap (Roadmap) with recommendations for process improvements and legislative reforms to enable efficient and timely delivery of environmental approvals by July 1, 2028.

3) Requires the CNRA Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group (Working Group) for the purpose of developing the Roadmap.

4) Requires that the Working Group consist of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, including but not limited to: the Coastal Commission; CalEPA; the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and

regional water quality control board representatives (Regional Water Boards); the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation; CNRA; the Ocean Protection Council; BCDC; the State Coastal Conservancy; the State Lands Commission; and the State Office of Historic Preservation.

5) Requires that the Roadmap include, at minimum, recommendations that address:

   a) Administrative reforms that can be implemented by state agencies within their existing authority to improve permit issuance timelines, including, among others:

      i) Improving efficiency in the process for agencies to determine and communicate that permit applications are complete including through the use of tools, as provided; and

      ii) Unified applications with a predictable sequence and timeline for review;

   b) A state process to align agency mitigation requirements and enable in-lieu fees or advance mitigation through which applicants can contribute funding to eligible restoration or mitigation initiatives, as provided;

   c) Legislative reforms that have the greatest potential to further accelerate permitting for projects that increase coastal resilience, with a focus on current legislative requirements, as provided;

   d) A coastal resilience project pilot program and any required legislative authorizations, if needed to test alternative approaches;

   e) An evaluation of whether consolidated coastal resilience permits, similar to those provided for offshore wind, would facilitate timely permits; and

   f) Workforce assessment and funding options for regulatory staffing positions and as-needed permitting support contracts to supplement staff, as provided.

6) Requires, on or before April 1, 2027, the CNRA Secretary, in collaboration with the commission, BCDC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards, convene a Coastal Resilience Permit Advisory Group (Advisory Group), consisting of representatives from at least the following:

   a) State Department of Transportation, State Coastal Conservancy, and other relevant state agencies that seek permits for projects in coastal areas;

b) Local governments required to update their LCPs for sea level rise;

c) California ports;

d) Local transportation agencies and wastewater treatment agencies, as specified;

e) California Native American tribes that are on the contact list administered and maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission; and

f) Other members of the public, including businesses, home and affordable housing builders, commercial and recreational fishers, environmental organizations, and environmental justice organizations.

7) Requires the CNRA Secretary, in consultation with the Coastal Commission, BCDC, CDFW, the State Water Board and the Regional Water Boards to conduct a series of public workshops with the Advisory Group or subgroups thereof to:

a) Solicit feedback regarding challenges with existing permitting processes; and

b) Review and seek comment on draft reform proposals from the Working Group's Roadmap.

8) Provides that a project alternative should be developed that uses existing natural features and ecosystem processes, or the restoration of natural features and ecosystem processes, to mee a project's goals when developing infrastructure to address adaption, where feasible.

9) Defines "coastal resilience project" as a project that maintains, protects, restores, or enables coastal ecosystems, infrastructure, or communities to withstand and adapt to sea level rise and other natural hazards amplified by climate change. Makes relevant legislative findings and declarations.

[NOTE: Additional information regarding this bill may be found in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee's bill analysis.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No
According to Senate Appropriations Committee for a previous version of this bill:

- One-time costs, likely in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars spread over 2-3 years (General Fund) for CNRA to facilitate interagency collaboration, public workshops, development of the Roadmap, and other deliverables required by the bill.

- One-time costs, likely in the low millions of dollars spread over 2-3 years (General Fund) for the California Coastal Commission estimates to help develop relevant components of the Roadmap, including recommendations across 10 topic areas, new state agency mitigation processes, proposed legislative reforms, alternatives analyses, evaluation of the efficacy of offshore wind project permitting practices, and more.

- Unknown but significant ongoing costs, possibly in the millions of dollars annually (General Fund, Waste Discharge Permit Fund, or other fund) for the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards to support state and regional board participation in the creation of Coastal Resilience Permitting Roadmap, including expansive subject matter expertise, developing recommendations, participating in statewide public workshops, providing legal consultation, and ensuring the necessary internal operational support to carry out the bill's provisions. In addition, the State Water Board anticipates that the scale of the required implementable solutions required by this bill's provisions would have significant costs ongoing, with significant information technology resources required to develop unified applications on a statewide or regional scale.

- Ongoing costs, likely around $1 million annually (General Fund), for the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.(BCDC) to assist with development of the Roadmap and implement reforms identified by the Working Group. BCDC notes that without additional positions and contracting resources, BCDC may need to utilize its existing permitting staff and its regulatory improvements team to implement this bill, thereby increasing permitting timelines and delaying implementation of BCDC's preexisting efforts to improve permitting processes.

- One-time costs, likely less than $1 million spread over 3-4 years (General Fund), for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to organize input from the department's coastal regions (specifically, regions one, three, four, five, and seven); participate in the Working Group, Advisory Group, and public workshops; and assist with the development and review of the Roadmap.

- One-time costs, likely less than $1 million spread over 3-4 years (General Fund), for the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to consult with the members of the Working Group to collaborate on the drafting and recommendations to be included in the Roadmap.

- One-time costs, likely less than $1 million spread over 3-4 years (General Fund), for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to consultant services to participate in the Advisory Group, participate in public workshops, and assist with the development and review of the Roadmap and legislative reforms resulting from recommendations made in the Roadmap.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Bay Area Council (co-source)
Bay Planning Coalition (co-source)
Abundant Housing LA
ACT-LA
AltaSea
Association of California Cities – Orange County
California Council for Affordable Housing
California Democratic Party Rural Caucus
California Shore & Beach Preservation Association
California State Association of Counties
CD 11 Coalition for Human Rights
City and County of San Francisco
City of Los Alamitos
City of Oceanside
City of Port Hueneme
City of San Rafael
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County
Coastal Quest
County of Los Angeles
County of Marin
County of Monterey
County of Orange
Downtown Women's Center
East Bay Dischargers Authority
East Bay Regional Park District
ECOncrete
Enterprise Community Partners
Filoli
Ground Game LA
Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
Homes & Hope
Housing Action Coalition
Indivisible South Bay LA
Inner City Law Center
Kiewit Infrastructure West Company
LA Forward
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Long Beach Forward
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
Los Angeles County Young Democrats
Mar Vista Voice
Marin Community Foundation
McFadden Finch Holdings Company
Mental Health Advocacy Services
National Alliance to End Homelessness
Neighborhood Legal Services
One Shoreline
Orange County Council of Governments
Orange County Transportation Authority
Port of Redwood City
Port of San Francisco
Public Advocates
Public Counsel
Public Interest Law Project

Safe Place For Youth
SAJE
San Francisco Bay Ferry
San Francisco International Airport
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Self-Help Enterprises
Senior Advocacy Network
Social Justice Learning Institute
South Bay Housing Crisis Working Group
Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing
Supportive Housing Alliance
The Exploratorium
The Honorable Todd Gloria, Mayor, City of San Diego
The Nature Conservancy
T.R.U.S.T. South LA
Union Station Homeless Services
USC Gould School of Law Housing Law and Policy Clinic
Venice Community Housing
Wareham Development
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Westside Young Democrats
WILDCOAST
Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "AB 2051 directs the Natural Resources Agency to convene a Coastal Resilience Permitting Working Group who will meet to develop a Roadmap for projects proposed along California's coast and in the San Francisco Bay. Under current law, a project sponsor on the coast may need to secure more than ten separate permits from state, federal, and local agencies. Decades worth of well-meaning permitting processes are overlaid on top of one another, and it is too expensive and time-consuming to move with the speed and cost efficiency our coastline is going to need to adapt to sea-level rise and an altered climate. The bill also gives the Coastal Commission the ability to extend, under narrow conditions, the expiration date of suggested modifications to a local land use plan that would facilitate the approval of a 100% affordable housing development."

In a joint sign-on letter in support, Venice Community Housing, among others, write, "The California Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded Venice Dell $42.5 million in funds, which requires a construction start by spring 2028. As the remaining hurdles to the project get stripped away, allowing the Coastal Commission to renew its approval of the project will save months of repeat work, enable the project to meet its funding deadline, and allow hundreds of people to have a safe and affordable home."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-6, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Ellis, Flora, Hadwick, Lackey, Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/25/26 21:20:31

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2055
Author: Jeff Gonzalez (R)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0, 5/18/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Vessels: operation: registration

SOURCE: California State Sheriff's Association

DIGEST: This bill 1) prohibits a court from staying, suspending, or entertaining dismissal of the proceedings of a case in which a person is charged with operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs for attendance or participation in any education, training, or treatment programs; 2) makes the failure of a vessel to display a ski flag to indicate a swimmer in the vicinity of the vessel an infraction; 3) changes the definition of a for-hire vessel to any vessel propelled by machinery carrying one or more passengers for hire; and 4) requires registration of all recreational vessels using waters of the state.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits a person from using any vessel or manipulate water skis, an aquaplane, or a similar device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person. (Harbor (Harb.) & Navigation (Nav.) Code, § 655, subd. (a).)

2) Prohibits operating a vessel, water skis, aquaplane, or similar device while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, a drug, or combination. Prohibits the operation of any of these devices by a person who is addicted to the use of any drug. (Harb. & Nav. Code, § 655, subd. (b)-(f).)

3) Creates an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding $15 for failure of the operator of a vessel involved in towing a skier to display or cause to be displayed a ski flag to indicate any of the following conditions: a downed skier; a skier in the water preparing to ski; a ski line extended from the vessel; or a ski in the water in the vicinity of the vessel. (Harb. & Nav. Code, § 658.7, subd. (a).)

4) Defines a "for-hire vessel" as any vessel propelled by machinery carrying more than three passengers for hire, except a sea plane on water or a watercraft specifically designed to operate on a permanently fixed course. (Harb. & Nav. Code, § 760.)

5) Defines an "undocumented vessel" as any vessel that is not required to have, and does not have, a valid marine document issued by the U.S. Coast Guard or any federal successor agency. (Harb. & Nav. Code, § 651, subd. (ad).)

6) Authorizes a peace officer to a person for violating the Vehicle Code when the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person involved in a traffic accident has violated a provision of the Vehicle Code not declared to be a felony or a local ordinance and the violation was a factor in the occurrence of the traffic accident. (Vehicle (Veh.) Code, § 40600.)

7) Requires every undocumented vessel using the waters or on the waters of the state to be currently numbered. Authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to adopt rules and regulations for the registration of undocumented vessels belonging to the state, local public agencies, or to the U.S. without payment of specified fees, except fees for duplicate certificates of ownership, duplicate certificates of number, or substitute current year registration stickers. (Veh. Code, §§ 9850, 9851.)

8) Exempts undocumented vessels from DMV registration if the vessel is registered by the federal government or a federally approved registration system of another state. (Veh. Code, § 9873.)

9) Prohibits a court from staying or suspending proceedings of a case in which a person is charged with operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or considering dismissal or entertaining dismissal of the proceedings, for attendance or participation in any education, training, or treatment programs. (Veh. Code, § 23640.)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a peace officer to prepare a written notice to appear when the office has reasonable cause to believe that a person involved in a traffic accident has violated boating law and that the violation was a factor in the occurrence of the vessel accident.

2) Provides that a peace officer has reasonable cause to issue a written notice to appear if, as a result of the officer's investigation, the officer has evidence, either testimonial or real, or a combination of testimonial and real, that would be sufficient to issue a written notice to appear if the officer had personally witnessed the events investigated.

3) Requires that a notice to appear contain the name and address of the person, the registration number of the person's vessel, if any, the name and address, when available, of the registered owner or lessee of the vessel, the offense charged, and the time and place when and where the person may appear in court or before a person authorized to receive a deposit of bail. Requires that the time specified is at least 10 days after the notice to appear is delivered.

4) Makes the failure of a vessel to display a ski flag to indicate a swimmer in the vicinity of the vessel an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding $15. Exempts public safety activities from the ski flag requirement.

5) Defines a "for-hire vessel" as any vessel propelled by machinery carrying one or more passengers for hire.

6) Requires, on and after July 1, 2028 and until January 1, 2034, and to the extent permissible under federal law, every recreational vessel using the water or on

the waters of this state to be registered. Requires the owner of a vessel that is required to or that has a valid marine document issued by a federal agency and that is registered to obtain from the department a decal and to display it on the vessel, either within 18 inches of the normal boarding area or on the mast. Requires the owner to apply for the decal if the vessel remains in California waters for more than 60 days and to display the decal if the vessel remains in California waters for more than 90 days. Requires the decal to be visible regardless of whether doors and hatches are open or closed. Prohibits the department from issuing a decal to an owner of a vessel that is larger than a registration sticker issued to an undocumented vessel. Provides that a decal is not registration.

7) Prohibits a court from staying, suspending, or entertaining dismissal of the proceedings of a case in which a person is charged with operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs, for attendance or participation in any education, training, or treatment programs.

Background

Boating under the influence. Existing law prohibits operating a vessel, water skis, aquaplane, or similar device while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, drug, or combination of alcohol and drugs. (Harb. & Nav. Code, § 655, subd. (b)-(f).) When a person is charged with a DUI for a violation of the Vehicle Code, the court is prohibited from suspending or staying the proceeding, or considering dismissal or entertaining dismissal, for the purpose of allowing the defendant to participate in an education, training, or treatment program. (Veh. Code, § 23640.) This bill applies these provisions to boating under the influence.

Notice to appear. Vehicle Code section 40600 allows a peace officer to cite a person for violating the Vehicle Code when the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person involved in a traffic accident has violated a provision of the Vehicle Code not declared to be a felony or a local ordinance and the violation was a factor in the occurrence of the traffic accident. There is no analogous provision for boaters involved in vessel accidents. This bill provides the same authority for peace officers to prepare a written notice to appear for a person operating a vessel.

Ski flag law. Under current law, boat operators are required to display a ski flag under specific conditions to alert nearby vessels that a skier is in the water,

signaling them to proceed with caution. This bill extends that requirement to apply to when a swimmer is in the water, except as provided.

For-hire vessels. Harbors and Navigation Code section 760 defines a "for-hire vessel" as any vessel propelled by machinery carrying more than three passengers for hire. This bill updates the definition to be consistent with the federal standards established by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Vessel registration. In California, vessels are registered in one of two ways: with the U.S. Coast Guard and referred to as a documented vessel or with the DMV and referred to as an undocumented vessel. This bill updates provisions relating to vessel registration to clarify that every recreational vessel must be registered with the state.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Workload increase of $175,000 annually to the Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways resulting from the change in the definition of a for-hire vessel from more than three to one or more (Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund).

Minor, absorbable costs to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). It is the responsibility of the local agency to ensure that their course is POST certified.

The Department of Motor Vehicles would have absorbable costs associated with requiring every vessel using the water or on the waters of California be registered with the state, to the extent permissible under federal law.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California State Sheriff's Association (source)
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
The California Baptist Capitol Ministry

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Calderon, DeMaio, Dixon, Gallagher, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Stefani, Ta, Wicks

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
8/17/26 10:47:40

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2058
Author: Harabedian (D) and Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Factory-Built Housing Law

SOURCE: California Housing Consortium

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a first user of factory built housing (FBH) to select either a local enforcement agency (LEA) or a quality assurance agency (QAA) to enforce and inspect the installation of the FBH structure, and caps the fees LEAs may charge for FBH permits and inspections when selected by the first user.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 remove requirements for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish rules and regulations for cost recovery and make minor clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Factory-Built Housing Law, which provides uniform health and safety standards and inspection procedures for FBH throughout the state.

2) Defines FBH to mean a residential building, dwelling unit, or an individual dwelling room or combination of rooms thereof, or building component, assembly, or system that is manufactured in such a manner that all concealed parts or processes of manufacture cannot be inspected before installation at the building site without disassembly, damage, or destruction of the part, including units designed for use as part of an institution for resident or patient care, that is either wholly manufactured or in substantial part manufactured at an offsite location to be wholly or partially assembled onsite in accordance with specified building standards and regulations. FBH does not include a mobilehome, a recreational vehicle, or a commercial modular, as specified.

3) Defines LEA to mean the city, county, or city and county in which factory-built housing is installed.

4) Defines QAA to mean a private organization meeting the requirements in regulations of HCD to perform in-plant inspections of FBH construction.

5) Defines "first user" to mean the person, firm, or corporation who initially installs FBH. Excludes from the definition of first user anyone who subsequently purchases FBH from the first user.

6) Deems all FBH bearing an Insignia of Approval, as specified, to comply with the requirements of all ordinances or regulations enacted by any city, county, city and county, or district which may be applicable to the construction of housing, except as specified.

7) Requires LEAs to enforce and inspect the installation of FBH and requires the installation of FBH to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the State Building Standards Code and State Housing Law relating to FBH.

8) Authorizes local jurisdictions to maintain their own local use zone requirements, local snow load requirements, local wind pressure requirements, local fire zones, building setback, side and rear yard requirements, site development and property line requirements, as well as the review and regulation of architectural and aesthetic requirements.

9) Prohibits those local requirements imposed on FBH from varying substantially from the requirements imposed on other residential buildings of similar size.

10) Authorizes HCD to provide by regulation for the qualification and disqualification of QAAs to perform inspections of FBH manufacturers, acting on behalf and under the supervision of HCD.

This bill:

1) Expands definition of QAA to mean a private organization meeting the requirements specified in regulations of the department to perform in-plant inspections of the manufacture of FBH and onsite inspections of FBH.

2) Eliminates the requirement that only LEAs enforce and inspect the installation of FBH. Requires a first user of FBH to select either an LEA or a QAA, acting on behalf of and subject to HCD approval, to inspect the installation of FBH.

3) Prohibits an LEA or QAA from disassembling, damaging, or destroying FBH while inspecting the installation of that FBH housing, as specified.

4) Authorizes an LEA, by ordinance, to establish an inspection fee for the inspection of the installation of FBH. The fee shall be capped at no more than 50% of the equivalent inspection fee for non-FBH units and components, unless it makes a written finding and an adopted resolution or ordinance that provides substantial evidence of the reasonable cost to conduct the inspections.

5) Prohibits an LEA from charging an inspection fee if a first user chooses to instead have a QAA enforce and inspect the installation of FBH. Clarifies an LEA may charge fees for inspection of sitework for items not related to the installation of the FBH, including, but not limited to, grading, foundations, and landscaping other non-FBH.

6) Prohibits an LEA from establishing any permitting fee related to FBH that exceeds 50% of the equivalent fee for non-FBH, unless it makes a written finding and an adopted resolution or ordinance that provides substantial evidence of the reasonable cost to permitting review the permits.

Background

Factory-Built Housing. FBH refers to industrialized housing construction, where either the entirety of, or components of, a housing unit are produced or assembled in an offsite factory, or both, and then transported to the housing site. FBH is often

colloquially referred to as modular, manufactured, or prefabricated housing. Where traditional "site-built" or "stick-built" housing is entirely constructed on a foundation at the actual housing site, FBH utilizes the efficiencies of an assembly line, similar to a car or an appliance. Entire units and modules are assembled in a climate-controlled factory and are much less susceptible to construction delays associated with traditional housing construction (*e.g.,* disruptive weather). While benefits may vary by project and jurisdiction, the Terner Center for Housing Innovation at University of California, Berkeley (Terner Center), finds that using FBH methods has the potential to reduce hard costs for a project by 10-25% and significantly reduce build times, compared to traditional construction.[1]

Select Committee on Housing Construction Innovation. In late 2025, the Assembly Select Committee on Housing Innovation (Select Committee) was established with the purpose of exploring how the state can play a role in reducing housing costs by facilitating innovation in housing construction. The Select Committee conducted two hearings in January 2026 and received testimony from industry experts. These experts discussed all of the following: the benefits and risks of industrialized construction methods, including potential cost savings; the ability to reduce project timelines; and, regulatory, labor, and budget considerations. The hearings also explored barriers to opportunities for scaling construction innovation.

The Select Committee requested support from the Terner Center to conduct research, including interviews with people familiar with the industry. The Terner Center interviewed 65 people representing different perspectives in the industry, including market-rate and affordable housing developers, general contractors, off-site manufacturers, architects, investors, lenders, union members, state and regional government staff, building code experts, and representatives from companies using 3D printing, A.I., and other emerging technologies.

Stakeholders identified instances in which building elements were inspected by local jurisdictions despite having already been reviewed during the in-factory inspection process by HCD-approved QAAs, per HCD regulations. The Terner Center's white paper identified consensus among stakeholders for consolidated review and inspection authority at the state level, though less consensus on the form of such consolidated review. One potential policy identified by some stakeholders was to allow third-party inspectors, hired by the project developer, to perform on-site inspections. Some stakeholders noted that allowing FBH projects

[1] Stephanie Hawke, et. al. *Potential Pathways to Scale Innovative Construction Methods in California.* Accessible here: **https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PathwaystoScaleInnovativeConstruction2026.pdf**. March 2026.

to use third-party inspectors for an entire project, including on-site work, would reduce local inspection duplication and inconsistency and may improve project approval efficiency.

International FBH Models. FBH has achieved notable success in countries like Sweden and Japan, where it has become a prominent method of delivering housing at scale. In Sweden, an advanced industrialized construction ecosystem integrates forestry, manufacturing, and housing development, allowing firms to standardize designs and use assembly-line production to deliver high-quality, multi-family housing efficiently, using more sustainable and durable materials like mass timber. Academic research on Swedish prefabrication systems shows that companies have successfully translated manufacturing principles, like repeatability, supply-chain integration, and quality control, into housing production, resulting in strong performance across cost, time, and quality dimensions.

Prefabrication has also been institutionalized for decades in Japan through coordinated industry and government support. According to research from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, prefabricated housing accounted for about 14% of all housing starts in Japan as of 2019. Large firms have refined factory-based production systems that can assemble a majority of a home in a matter of days, emphasizing precision, durability, and customization at scale. Studies of Japanese and Swedish firms also find that prefabricated housing can deliver higher and more consistent quality than site-built construction due to controlled factory environments and advanced automation, even when costs are comparable or slightly higher. These models position FBH as a promising strategy to address housing shortages by improving productivity and reducing construction risk when aided by standardized regulations and stable demand pipelines.

Comments

1) *Author's statement.* "The housing crisis in California is making life increasingly unaffordable for families, young adults, and working communities, and it is forcing many people to leave the state simply because they cannot find a home within their budget. Factory-built homes offer a solution by getting homes built faster and cheaper, but current laws allow unnecessary inspections, delays, and high fees that drive up costs and slow construction. AB 2058 will streamline inspections, protect homes from damage during installation, and reduce permitting fees, making it faster and more affordable to bring these homes to Californians. By removing these barriers, the bill will help more people to achieve the dream of homeownership."

2) *The FBH Approval Process.* Under the FBH Law, factory-built units and building components are regulated by HCD, which promulgates health and safety regulations to benefit users and purchasers of FBH.

There are three primary components of the current FBH Approval Process:

1. Design Approval	A third-party QAA, approved by HCD, reviews design plans submitted by an FBH manufacturer to ensure compliance with state building codes. Approved designs must also provide a document describing in detail all of the installation and assembly methods required onsite to clarify the onsite inspection responsibilities of the local building departments.
2. In-Plant Inspection	An in-plant inspection is conducted by a third-party QAA within the factory ("in the plant") manufacturing the units and components to ensure all output is manufactured in accordance with the approved design plans and relevant building codes, prior to transportation to the housing site.
3. Site Inspection	Under current law, when an FBH unit or building components are delivered to a housing site, an LEA is responsible for ensuring the installation meets building standards, and that no previously approved components were changed since the QAA's inspection. An LEA may also enforce local reach codes that apply to the site, as well as other local requirements like setbacks.

3) *Who is best equipped to handle this?* LEAs (*i.e.,* local building departments) are currently the sole entity responsible for inspecting on-site FBH installations. Similar to site-built homes, these agencies are responsible for ensuring a housing unit and its components adhere to state and local building standards. However, Terner Center research found that some building departments are conducting duplicative reviews of FBH building elements.[2] Unlike site-built housing, the FBH program ensures that FBH building elements have already

[2] Hawke, Stephanie, et. al. *Potential Pathways to Scale Innovative Construction Methods in California.* Accessible here: **https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PathwaystoScaleInnovativeConstruction2026.pdf**. March 2026.

gone through multiple stages of review and approval prior to installation at the building site. As such, unnecessary reviews can lead to frustrating outcomes for all parties involved, causing unnecessary work for inspectors and increasing time and costs expended by the first user of the FBH. These duplicative reviews, as well as reports of LEA inspectors tearing apart and damaging building components that are already cleared, have culminated in a desire to allow QAAs more experienced in the field to conduct these inspections instead. While this bill would still allow first users to select an LEA as their on-site inspector, it would give them *the option* to instead select a QAA.

4) *Prohibition of fees.* This bill prohibits LEAs from charging more than 50% of the cost of a site-built inspection for an FBH site inspection. This change recognizes that many site-built units have more components, which take more time and resources to inspect; FBH units and components, on the other hand, are often less complex are structurally different, and have already gone through pre-approval processes. Capping inspection fees will ensure cost efficiencies of FBH are not lost due to an LEA equating FBH inspections with those of site-built units. This bill would also prohibit an LEA from charging an inspection fee if a QAA assumes the responsibility for inspection at the request of the first user, instead of an LEA. Lastly, this bill would prohibit an LEA from establishing any permitting fee related to FBH that exceeds 50% of the equivalent permitting fee for non-FBH. This change recognizes that FBH units and components that benefit from standardized designs and strict adherence to state building standards are not treated like traditional site-built units with design and construction variants that may complicate permitting. As amended, this bill allows LEAs to impose higher inspection and permitting fees by ordinance if they make certain findings with specified evidence.

5) *Double-referral.* This bill was also heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on June 23rd, 2026, where it received a vote of 7-0.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 557 (McKinnor, 2025) – required FBH plans be assigned a serial number, and be automatically approved for subsequent use in different projects if approved for use in one prior. Required HCD and QAAs to limit their reviews to the portions of a plan or specification that have not already received approval, as specified. *This bill was held at the request of the author.*

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Housing Consortium (Source)

Abundant Housing L.a.
Abundant Housing Los Angeles
Aids Healthcare Foundation
Autodesk, INC.
Bay Area Council
California Council for Affordable Housing
California Yimby
Casita Coalition
East Bay Yimby
Eden Housing
Grow the Richmond
Inner City Law Center
Mountain View Yimby
Napa-solano for Everyone
Northern Neighbors Sf
Peninsula for Everyone
San Francisco Bay Area Planning & Urban Research Association
San Francisco Yimby
San Jose Yimby
San Mateo Forward
Santa Cruz Yimby
Santa Rosa Yimby
South Bay Yimby
Spur
Student Homes Coalition
Ventura County Yimby
Yes! in Redwood City
Yimby Action
Yimby Los Angeles
Yimby Monterey Peninsula
Yimby Slo

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters of this bill argue that it would protect the cost-savings and efficiencies of FBH by authorizing QAAs, which have more expertise in FBH, to perform both in-plant and installation inspections.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wicks

Prepared by: Ryan Hardmeyer / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 12:20:35

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2059
Author: Wilson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/18/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: transportation impacts: vehicle miles traveled: mitigation

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill specifies that for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a transportation project is presumed to have a less than significant transportation impacts as determined by the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) metric if the project meets certain criteria: this provision will sunset once the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) publishes guidance on VMT mitigation for transportation projects meeting that same criteria.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed discretionary project to prepare a negative declaration (ND), mitigated negative declaration (MND), or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (Public Resources Code § (PRC) 21000 et seq.)

2) Requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR, now known as LCI) to prepare and develop proposed guidelines for the implementation of CEQA by public agencies. Requires the guidelines to include objectives and criteria for the orderly evaluation of projects and the preparation of EIRs and NDs. Also requires the guidelines to include criteria for public agencies to follow in determining whether a proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment. (PRC § 21083)

3) Requires LCI to prepare proposed revisions to the CEQA Guidelines establishing criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts within transit priority areas (TPAs). Requires the criteria to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses. (PRC § 21099)

4) Authorizes LCI to adopt CEQA Guidelines alternative methods of analyzing transportation impacts under CEQA including Vehicle Mile Traveled (VMT). Pursuant to this authority, LCI revised the CEQA Guidelines to identify VMT as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project's transportation impacts and to apply VMT statewide. (PRC § 21099)

5) Establishes an in-lieu fee mechanism for VMT mitigation – permitting a project, which is under the jurisdiction of a regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) and has a VMT mitigation requirement pursuant to CEQA, to satisfy its VMT mitigation requirement by contributing an unspecified amount per VMT to the transit-oriented development (TOD) fund to provide financing for transit-oriented rental housing developments. (PRC §21080.43 and 21080.44)

This bill:

1) Requires Caltrans to develop guidance for non-metropolitan areas on VMT mitigation for transportation projects that do not add lanes to the state highway system, unless there is a demonstrated safety or evacuation need for the project. Specifically, this bill requires Caltrans in their guidance to:
   a) Provide case studies of the costs associated with VMT mitigation for these projects and provide examples of mitigation measures for these types of projects.

   b) Identify barriers to implementing VMT mitigation for these projects
   c) Develop recommendations for processes for lead agencies and developers to identify and implement appropriate VMT mitigation for these types of projects.
   d) Develop recommendations for appropriate VMT significance thresholds for these transportation projects.

2) Specifies that, until December 31, 2031, a transportation project for which a lead agency has issued a notice of preparation, as defined, is presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact as determined by the VMT metric if the project meets the following:
   a) At least 70% of the project lies within one or more nonmetropolitan counties; and
   b) The project does not add lanes to the state highway system unless there is a demonstrated safety or evacuation need for the project.

3) Adds the following definitions:
   a) "Demonstrated evacuation need" means a project that is specifically identified as necessary to provide evacuation capacity for the affected area in an adopted local hazard mitigation plan, general plan safety element, local emergency operations plan, or other local or regional emergency evacuation plan approved by a city, county, or regional planning agency through a public process;
   b) "Demonstrated safety need" means a project for which the lead agency demonstrates, through documented collision, injury, or fatality data specific to the project location, or through a risk-based or systemic safety analysis consistent with state and federal guidance, that the proposed project includes safety countermeasures that are necessary to reduce the number and severity of injuries or the number of fatalities, including reducing specific risks to vulnerable road users;
   c) "Nonmetropolitan county" means a nonmetropolitan county designated by the Methodology for Determining Rural Status of Project Site for 2025 Applications issued by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee on January 1, 2025 (including 22 rural counties); and
   d) "Transportation project" means a project undertaken by a public agency that consists of the planning, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, expansion, or operation of a highway, road, bridge, transit facility, rail facility, bicycle or pedestrian facility, or other public transportation infrastructure.

Background

CEQA 101. Under CEQA, projects (unless they have a specific exemption) must undergo environmental analysis. This process starts with an initial study which determines what level of further environmental review is needed for a given project. If a project has no significant effects on the environment, or if those effects can be fully mitigated, the project can move forward with a negative declaration (ND) or mitigated negative declaration (MND). If the initial study finds that the project has potential significant effects on the environment, then a full EIR is conducted. An EIR provides thorough environmental review of a proposed project. The EIR also includes proposed mitigation measures for any significant effects that it identifies and considers alternatives to the proposed project.

What are significant transportation impacts in CEQA. Transportation impacts are one of the key environmental impacts that must be considered under CEQA. In July 2020, the CEQA guidelines directed agencies to use VMT to analyze the transportation impacts of a project under CEQA, replacing an older metric for transportation impacts, Level of Service (LOS). While LOS measures the presence of traffic and how quickly cars can move through a street, VMTs are a metric that simultaneously considers greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and diversity of land uses. VMT measures the amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period (typically one year), and can be calculated for a region or on a per-capita basis.

To help lead agencies use VMTs as a tool to assess whether a project has significant transportation impacts under CEQA, LCI, released a "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA" (Technical Advisory) that includes a recommended threshold VMT level over which additional VMTs would be considered a significant transportation impact. The threshold for "significant transportation impacts" recommended by LCI for residential projects is a VMT level that is least 15% lower than existing VMTs per capita in the project area. In other words, if a project has an associated VMT rate that is only 14% lower than the VMT per capita in the project area, that project would be considered to have significant transportation impacts. For retail projects, any net increase in total VMT is considered a significant transportation impact. The pre-existing VMT per capita in an area used to measure the relative VMT impacts of the project may be measured as regional VMT per capita or as city VMT per capita. Having the option to compare a project's VMTs to regional or city VMT per capita gives

projects some flexibility in achieving the 15% threshold and some variability across projects and regions.

These thresholds for VMT significance are recommendations, not requirements. Local entities can develop their own thresholds or VMT criteria. In fact, OPR writes in the Technical Advisory that "in rural areas… fewer options may be available for reducing VMT, and significance thresholds may be best determined on a case-by-case basis."

How to mitigate VMTs? If a project has VMT levels above the significance threshold, as determined by the lead agency under CEQA, then those impacts could be mitigated through CEQA. In its 'Technical Advisory', LCI provides a long list of actions a local government could take to reduce a project's VMT. These mitigation measures include, among others:

a) Orient the project toward transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities;
b) Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service;
c) Project design (street grid instead of cul-de-sacs);
d) Incorporate affordable housing into the project;
e) Incorporate a neighborhood electric vehicle network;
f) Provide traffic calming;
g) Provide bicycle parking;
h) Limit or eliminate the supply of parking;
i) Implement or provide access to a commute reduction program;
j) Provide car-sharing, bike-sharing, and ride-sharing programs;
k) Provide transit passes;
l) Shift single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling; or
m) Provide telework options for office projects.

VMT mitigation bank. In 2025, the legislature passed AB 130 (Committee on budget, Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) which established a VMT mitigation bank. The money that is put into the VMT bank through in in-lieu fees will be invested in affordable housing and related infrastructure projects in the following order of priority locations: (1) location-efficient areas within the same region as the impacting project; (2) other areas within the same region as the impacting project; (3) location-efficient areas within an adjacent region.

AB 130 tasked LCI with developing guidelines to implement the VMT mitigation bank, including defining an appropriate rate for the VMT in lieu fee and identifying a "location-efficient areas" where low-VMT housing funded through

the VMT bank can be located, and proximity radius, which will determine how far apart projects funded through the VMT mitigation bank can be from projects that generated the funding through the VMT in lieu fee.

Money paid into the fund will be kept in separate accounts for each region, with prioritization given to projects in the same region as the project that generated the VMT in-lieu mitigation fee. “Regions” are defined as the territory of metropolitan planning organization (MPOs) within which a project is located, or the territory of the RTPA within which a project is located if the project is located outside of the boundaries of an MPO. LCI guidelines further separate Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region into sub-regions given that SCAG is significantly larger than the other MPOs.

LCI has published a draft AB 130 statewide VMT mitigation program guidance document which accepted public comment through May 8th, 2026.

Ongoing investigations at Caltrans re: VMT in rural areas. In May 2025, the SB 743 Implementation Working Group Rural VMT Action Subcommittee was formed to develop a response to CAPTI 2.0 Key Action S2.2. This identifies key actions to: Improve VMT analysis and mitigation guidance for rural projects to better account for the low VMT impact of many rural projects in consultation with rural stakeholders. The working group will improve guidance on VMT analysis and mitigation options for projects on the State Highway System (SHS) within rural areas in California. This stakeholder working group is a subcommittee to the ongoing Caltrans-LCI SB 743 Implementation Working Group**.**

On June 30, 2026, a study by UC Berkeley that had been commissioned by Caltrans was published titled: “Investigating the Ability to Assess VMT Impacts of Rural Capacity-Enhancing Projects” It was commissioned by Caltrans as required by CAPTI 2.0 action item, and concludes:

> While California is making progress meeting the goals of VMT reduction from CAPTI investments, much of the significant reductions are tied to mitigation or avoidance of projects in urbanized areas. A one-size-fits all strategy may not be suitable for rural projects. The existing research on induced travel demand and VMT reduction is primarily from studies conducted in urban and metropolitan areas where highway capacity has been added with the goal to relieve congestion. Implementation of these strategies in rural areas require more nuanced guidance given the limited research.

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "California's transition to a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) framework under CEQA, implemented pursuant to SB 743 (Steinberg, 2013), was intended to better align transportation and land use decisions with the state's climate goals. While that objective remains important, the current, project-level application of VMT mitigation has created unintended consequences that are undermining the delivery of critical transportation infrastructure, particularly in rural communities.

"AB 2059 strikes a balanced path forward by maintaining California's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring that the state's smallest counties can deliver safe, reliable, and resilient transportation infrastructure. For these reasons, AB 2059 is a necessary and timely reform."

Is AB 2059 jumping the gun on AB 130? Last year, the Legislature passed AB 130, which established a VMT mitigation bank wherein developers could pay in lieu fees into the VMT bank instead of mitigating VMTs directly. That fund is then intended to subsidize location-efficient housing (e.g. housing in infill areas that have low VMTs). LCI has released draft regulations to implement the VMT bank, but the program has not yet been finalized.

One of the benefits of a VMT bank is to provide developers with another option to mitigate VMTs, particularly when direct VMT mitigation can be very expensive for some projects. By allowing transportation projects in rural areas to presume that their transportation impacts are not significant until 2032, AB 2059 would take projects out of the soon-to-be finalized VMT mitigation bank before it is possible to determine if the VMT mitigation bank is a viable option to reduce costs for such projects.

Related/Prior Legislation
AB 130 (Committee on budget, Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) establishes, among numerous other provisions, an in-lieu fee mechanism for VMT mitigation – permitting a project, which is under the jurisdiction of a regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) and has a VMT mitigation requirement pursuant to CEQA, to satisfy its VMT mitigation requirement by contributing an unspecified amount per VMT to the transit-oriented development (TOD) fund to provide financing for transit-oriented rental housing developments. (PRC 21080.43 and 21080.44)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- One-time costs, possibly in the high tens of thousands or low hundreds of thousands of dollars (General Fund), for the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to develop, publish, and integrate CEQA guidance, as well as to update guidelines and procedures.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

California Nevada Cement Association
Transportation California
Tulare; City of

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/18/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Calderon, Dixon, Gallagher, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Stefani, Wicks

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/26/26 9:20:14

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2061
Author: Chen (R), et al.
Amended: 8/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Padilla, Niello, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California FAIR Plan Association: data

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR Plan) to post quarterly on its website, the number of policies it issued in each ZIP Code and its risk exposure; and 2) removes the requirement that the FAIR Plan publish its telephone number in all general distribution telephone directories in the state.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/17/26 address chaptering issues.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the FAIR Plan to assure the stability of the property insurance market, to assure the availability of basic property insurance, as defined, to encourage maximum use of the normal insurance market in obtaining basic property insurance provided by admitted insurers and licensed surplus line brokers.

2) Specifies that rates for the FAIR Plan shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory, shall be actuarially sound so that premiums are adequate to cover expected losses, expenses and taxes, and shall reflect investment income of the plan.

This bill:

1) Requires the FAIR Plan to post quarterly on its website, the number of policies it issued in each ZIP Code and its risk exposure.

2) Removes the requirement that the FAIR Plan publish its telephone number in all general distribution telephone directories in the state.

3) Includes provisions of AB 69 (Calderon, 2025) to address chaptering issues with that bill.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 69 (Calderon, 2025). Enacts various provisions to assist FAIR Plan policyholders in securing coverage outside of the FAIR Plan. These provisions include providing policyholder information to interested insurers and agents or brokers of record simultaneously, while also making policyholders aware of additional coverage options. Pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 1680 (Calderon, 2026). Creates greater ability for the California Department of Insurance to ensure accountability and coverage options in the FAIR Plan. Pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 234 (Calderon, Chapter 474, Statutes of 2025). Required the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Rules to serve as nonvoting, ex officio members of the governing committee, and authorized each to name a designee to serve in their place.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

Little Hoover Commission

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Little Hoover Commission:

"In its 2024 report, *Building a Stronger Home Insurance Market for California*, the Commission found it difficult to answer basic questions about the state's home insurance market using information currently available from the Department of Insurance. As a result, the Commission recommended that the Department modernize its website with timely and accessible information. Part of this recommendation included adding online data about the number of homeowners policies of the FAIR Plan, total written exposure, and the number of non-renewals and cancellations of the FAIR Plan, amongst many other data points.

AB 2061 would be a step toward making information about homeowners insurance more accessible and informative, which is critical as more Californians rely on the FAIR Plan as a market of last resort. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Lee, Ortega, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
8/18/26 16:12:27

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2074
Author: Haney (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Cortese, Durazo, Grayson, Padilla
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Caballero, Gonzalez, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 6-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-6, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Regional transit hub districts: downtown housing developments

SOURCE: California Yimby
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California

DIGEST: This bill requires major transit cities to designate high-density downtown transit hub districts where qualifying housing developments are allowed by right, subject to specified labor and affordability standards, and requires the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to conduct a housing construction loan and financing study by March 1, 2028, as specified.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 make several changes to the establishment of the downtown transit hub districts, require HCD to notify a local government if they are in violation of this bill, permit HCD to notify the attorney general if a local government is in violation of this bill, and require the study to be completed by March 1, 2028.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law, pursuant to SB 79 (Wiener, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2025):

1) Establishes the following definitions:

   a) "Adjacent" means within 200 feet of any pedestrian access point to a transit oriented development (TOD) stop. A parcel that meets any of the eligibility criteria under this bill and is adjacent to a Tier 1 TOD Stop or Tier 2 TOD Stop, as defined below, shall be eligible for an adjacency intensifier to increase the height limit by an additional 20 feet, the maximum density standard by an additional 40 dwelling units per acre, and the floor area ratio (FAR) by 1 prior to the application of Density Bonus Law.

   b) "Residential FAR" means the ratio of net habitable square footage dedicated to residential use to the area of the lot. A local government may not impose any other local development standard or combination of standards that would physically preclude the residential FAR established.

   c) "Tier 1 TOD stop" means a transit-oriented development stop with an urban transit county, served by heavy rail transit or very high frequency commuter rail.

   d) "Tier 2 TOD stop" excludes a Tier 1 TOD stop, and means a transit-oriented development stop with an urban transit county served by light rail transit, by high-frequency commuter rail, or by bus service, as specified. "Urban transit county" means a county with more than 15 passenger rail stations.

   e) "TOD stop" means a major transit stop or a stop on a route for which a preferred alternative has been selected or which are identified in a regional transportation improvement program, served by heavy rail transit, very high frequency commuter rail, high frequency commuter rail, light rail transit, or specified bus service within an urban county. When a new transit route is planned that was not identified in the applicable regional transportation plan on or before January 1, 2026, these stops shall not be eligible as a TOD stop unless they would be eligible as Tier 1 TOD stops. If a county becomes an urban transit county subsequent to July 1, 2026, then bus service in that county shall remain ineligible for designation of a transit-oriented development stop.

   f) "Urban transit county" means a county with more than 15 passenger rail stations.

2) Provides that a housing development within a specified distance of a transit stop in a residential, mixed-use, or commercial zone shall be entitled to specified development standards pursuant to the table below. TOD housing development projects shall also meet the following requirements:

   a) The average total area of floor space for the proposed units in the transit-oriented housing development project shall not exceed 1,750 net habitable square feet, and

   b) The housing development project shall include at least five dwelling units and meet the greater of the following:

      i) A minimum density of at least 30 dwelling units per acre; or

      ii) The minimum density required under the local zoning, if applicable.

TOD Stop Type	**Dist. from Stop (TOD Zone)**	**Development Standards for Project**
Tier 1: Major transit stop, heavy rail transit, or very high frequency commuter rail in urban transit county	¼ mile from stop	• **Max Height**: 75 ft or 95 ft if adjacent to stop • **Max Density**: 30 - 120 units per acre (u/a) plus any density bonus or 160 u/a if adjacent to stop • **FAR**: 3.5 or 4.5 if adjacent to stop • **Specified Concessions**
	¼ - ½ mile from stop in city with population at least 35,000	• **Max Height**: 65 ft • **Max Density**: 30 - 100 u/a plus any density bonus • **FAR**: 3 • **Specified Concessions**
Tier 2: Not Tier 1 major transit stops served by light rail transit, high-frequency commuter rail, or bus rapid transit	¼ mile from stop	• **Max Height**: 65 ft or 85 ft if adjacent to stop • **Max Density**: 30 - 100 u/a plus any density bonus or 140 u/a if adjacent to stop • **FAR**: 3 or 4 if adjacent to stop
	¼ - ½ mile from stop in a city with a population	• **Max Height**: 55 ft • **Max Density**: 30 - 80 u/a plus any density bonus • **FAR**: 2.5 • **Specified Concessions**

in an urban transit county	at least 35,000	

3) Provides that for projects with more than 10 units, the project shall comply with one of the following requirements:

   a) Any of the following:

      i) At least 7% are dedicated to extremely low-income (ELI) households.

      ii) At least 10% of the total units are dedicated to very low-income (VLI) households.

      iii) At least 13% of the total units are dedicated to low-income households.

   b) If a local inclusionary housing requirement mandates a higher percentage or deeper level of affordability, then the local inclusionary housing standard shall apply.

   c) All units dedicated to ELI, VLI, or low-income households shall have an affordable cost or rent, as defined, and ensure the continued affordability of those units for 45 years for ownership or 55 years for rental units.

4) Prohibits a transit housing development from being located on either of the following:

   a) A site containing more than two units where the development would require the demolition of housing that is subject to any form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power that has been occupied by tenants within the last seven years.

   b) A site that was previously used for more than two units of housing that was demolished within seven years before the development proponent submits an application under this section any of the units were subject to any form of rent or price control.

5) Requires a TOD project to meet specified labor standards, including the provision of prevailing wages if the project is not entirely a public work, as specified, and projects over 85 feet shall employ a skilled and trained workforce, as specified.

6) Requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to create a map of TOD stops and zones established by SB 79 (Wiener, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2025)(SB 79).

7) Delays implementation of SB 79 development standards until July 1, 2026, unless a local government adopts an ordinance or local TOD alternative plan deemed compliant by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) before July 1, 2026. Delays implementation to unincorporated areas of a county until the 7th regional housing needs allocation cycle.

Existing state law:

1) Authorizes California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to make loans to housing sponsors for housing developments and to qualified mortgage lenders, among others. Provides that the primary purpose of CalHFA is to meet the housing needs of persons and families of low- or moderate-income.

This bill:

1) Defines for purposes of this bill:

   a) "Downtown housing development" means a housing development project within a regional transit hub district that meets the following conditions:

      i) Labor Standards pursuant to SB 423 (Wiener, Chapter 778, Statutes of 2023) (SB 423).

      ii) Requires a minimum density of 60 dwelling units per acre and an average total area of floor space for the proposed units in the project does not exceed 1,750 net habitable square feet.

      iii) Meets the affordability requirements established in SB 79 for projects containing more than 10 units or the local inclusionary housing requirement, whichever has a higher percentage of affordable units or deeper level of affordability (see (3) in Existing Law).

      iv) Requires the development proposed pursuant to the bill to comply with the anti-demolition standards established in SB 79 (see (4) in Existing Law).

      v) Prohibits the demolition of any individually landmarked property on a local, state, or federal historic register.

vi) Requires consistency with the height, noise, and safety standards of an adopted airport land use compatibility plan or Department of Defense Air Installation Compatible Use Zone, as specified.

b) "Housing development project" means the same as a housing development project is defined in the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), generally a multiunit project that is at least two-thirds residential.

c) "Major transit city" means a city with a population of at least 400,000 in the most recent decennial census that contains at least two transit-oriented development stops.

d) "Regional transit hub district" (district) means a district surrounding a transit stop designated by a city.

e) "Transit-oriented development stop" (TOD stop) has the same meaning as defined in SB 79.

2) Requires each major transit city to comply with the applicable of the following:

a) A major transit city with a population of at least 400,000 and less than 1 million in the most recent decennial census shall designate at least one district with a total area of at least 0.5 square miles.

b) A major transit city with a population of at least 1 million and less than 2 million in the most recent decennial census shall designate at least one district with a total area of at least 1 square mile.

c) A major transit city with a population of at least 2 million in the most recent decennial census shall designate at least one district with a total area of at least 1.5 square miles.

3) Provides that if a major transit city does not comply with (2), then the equivalent area in a uniform radius around the city's highest ridership TOD stop shall be deemed a regional transit hub district.

4) Authorizes a major transit city to designate multiple hug districts so long as they cumulatively meet the requirements of (2).

5) Provides that a city that is not a major transit city may designate a district.

6) Provides that designation of a district pursuant to this bill shall not be considered a "project" for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

7) Requires districts to be a contiguous area of land at least .25 square miles containing at least one TOD stop.

8) Requires that a downtown housing development be an allowable use in a district. Provides that a downtown housing development in a district is subject to all of the following:

   a) Prohibits a city from setting a maximum height limit lower than 150 feet.

   b) Requires at least 25% of the total area of all districts within a city to allow a maximum height of 450 feet.

   c) Prohibits a city from setting a maximum floor area ratio lower than six.

   d) Requires at least 25% of the total area of all districts within a city to allow a maximum floor area ratio of at least 12.

   e) Prohibits a city from setting a maximum density of less than 200 dwelling units per acre.

   f) Prohibits at least 25% of the total area of all districts in a city from having a maximum density limit.

9) Allows a city to set other objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and object design review standards related to a downtown housing development within a district that are consistent the requirements specified in of 6).

10) Applies the following to a downtown housing development:

   a) Ability to quality for a density bonus, incentives or concessions, waivers or reductions of development standards, or parking ratios pursuant to DBL or a local density bonus, using the requirements of the bill as the base density.

   b) Provides eligibility for streamlined ministerial approval pursuant to SB 423 without meeting the standards for a project under SB 423, except that the downtown housing development project is still restricted from using the ministerial process in SB 423 if the project is on an environmentally sensitive site.

   c) Requires the local government to, as a condition of approval, require the development proponent to complete a phase I environmental assessment, as specified.

11) Requires the California Housing Finance Agency, but March 1, 2028, to conduct and submit to the relevant policy committees, a housing construction loan and financing study, including feedback from interested stakeholders, that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

    a) An analysis of existing construction loan programs and housing construction loan programs implemented in California and an assessment and case study analysis of current gaps in housing construction loan availability for a state housing construction loan program, including, but not limited to gaps that impeded the production of the types of housing sought to be developed.

    b) Recommendations for how a state construction loan program could function and facilitate multifamily rental and for-sale housing developments, as specified.

    c) An analysis of state resources needed to establish construction loans serving different housing projects described in subparagraph (C).

    d) Recommendations to mitigate increased lending risk and maximize leverage of state funds.

Background

SB 79 Development Standards. Beginning July 1, 2026, SB 79 makes housing an allowable use on sites zoned residential, mixed-use, or commercial within one-half mile of an existing or currently proposed qualifying TOD stop in an "urban transit county" for jurisdictions with a population of at least 35,000 residents, and within one-quarter mile of the qualifying TOD stop for jurisdictions with a population of less than 35,000. For unincorporated areas of a county, implementation is delayed until the 7th housing element cycle begins. SB 79 projects must include at least five units, achieve the greater of 30 dwelling units per acre (du/acre) or meet the local minimum density requirements, and maintain an average unit size not exceeding 1,750 square feet. SB 79 projects over 10 units must include specified levels of affordable housing, comply with anti-displacement provisions of the Housing Crisis Act, and comply with specified labor standards.

Comments

1) *Author's statement.* "California's downtowns are at a crossroads. In the wake of the pandemic, many of our city centers are struggling with high vacancy rates, declining foot traffic, and reduced economic activity. At the same time,

we continue to face a severe housing shortage, especially in the very places where housing makes the most sense: near jobs, transit, and existing infrastructure. AB 2074 responds to both of these challenges by creating a clear, statewide framework to support high-density housing in our downtown cores while ensuring that the jobs created are high-quality, family-supporting jobs. This bill establishes regional transit hub districts in major cities and sets baseline zoning standards that allow for meaningful mixed-use and residential high-rise development, while providing a streamlined approval pathway for projects that meet affordability and strong labor standards. It also creates a revolving loan fund through CalHFA to help address one of the most significant barriers to building housing today: access to early-stage financing. By pairing housing production with robust labor protections and financial tools, AB 2074 is designed to unlock housing, support good-paying jobs, and bring new life to our downtowns."

2) *High-rise housing projects near transit.* This bill uses the existing legislative framework established by SB 79 (Wiener) by establishing TOD zoning standards that are typically higher than what a local agency has zoned the area for in its general plan near TOD stops. Specifically, this bill requires the following cities, based on population, to establish the following sized districts with at least one TOD stop:

   a) Los Angeles (population over 2 million) - at least 1.5 square miles;

   b) San Diego and San Jose (population between 1 million and 2 million) - at least 1 square mile; and,

   c) San Francisco, Sacramento, Long Beach, and Oakland (population between 400,000 and 1 million) - at least 0.5 square miles in districts.

   Within the districts, housing shall be an allowable use, and the following development standards would apply to downtown housing developments:

   a) A city cannot impose a maximum height lower than 150 feet. At least 25% of the district or districts shall allow up to 450 feet;

   b) A city cannot set a maximum FAR lower than 6. At least 25% of the district or districts shall allow a maximum FAR of at least 12.

   c) A city cannot set a maximum density of less than 200 units per acre (u/a). At least 25% of the total area of district or districts shall have no maximum density requirements. The housing project shall be at least 60 u/a.

Additionally, these high-rise housing projects are eligible for streamlined ministerial approval and to utilize the benefits of DBL. Housing projects shall meet the same affordability, labor standards, and anti-demolition and anti-displacement provisions as SB 79 (Wiener). The intent is for each major transit city to designate at least district subject to the requirements above; they may establish more than one, so long as cumulatively the districts meet the overall size requirements. This bill also authorizes non-major transit cities to designate districts.

3) *Report on new innovative housing construction methods*. Given the interest in identifying new and creative ways to finance housing projects, this bill requires CalHFA to issue a report that would evaluate and analyze: construction loan programs implemented elsewhere and how those models could be replicated in California; how a program could serve a range of income levels, project sizes (including smaller multifamily developments as well as high-rise buildings), and in various regions in the state, (including but not limited to the downtown areas contemplated by this bill); and recommendations to mitigate increased lending risk and maximize leverage of state funds. The report must be informed by feedback from interested stakeholders and include considerations for the Legislature to consider for adopting a state construction loan program and submit those recommendations to the Legislature by March 1, 2028.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- CalHFA estimates one-time costs of up to $250,000 to conduct the required study, including contracted data analysis and staff time for coordination with stakeholders, data collection, and preparation of the final report. (General Fund)

- The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) estimates ongoing costs of approximately $236,000 annually for 1.0 PY of staff to update guidelines related to streamlined and ministerial provisions, and respond to an expected significant increase in technical assistance inquiries from housing advocates, local agencies and developers related to compliance with the bill, designation of districts, and processing of applications. (General Fund)

- The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) estimates Labor Commissioner's Office costs of approximately $1.1 million in the first year and $1 million annually ongoing for oversight and enforcement activities related to prevailing wage and apprenticeship standards on projects constructed pursuant to the provisions of this bill. There would also be penalty revenue gains, potentially

in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, to partially offset these costs. Actual costs and penalty revenues would depend upon the number of qualifying projects constructed under this bill and the number of complaints and referrals to the Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement that require enforcement actions, investigations, and appeals. (State Public Works Enforcement Fund)

- Unknown local mandated costs. The bill would impose new costs on seven major transit cities to establish regional transit hub districts and to revise planning requirements and considerations for specified housing development projects within those districts. These costs are not state-reimbursable because local agencies have general authority to charge and adjust planning and permitting fees to cover their administrative expenses associated with new planning mandates. (local funds)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Yimby (co-source)
State Building & Construction Trades Council of California (co-source)
Big City Mayors
Bike Coalition San Diego County
Business for Good San Diego
CA Black Chamber of Commerce
California Big City Mayors Coalition
California Black Chamber of Commerce
California Downtown Association
Central City Association of Los Angeles
City of Anaheim
City of Bakersfield
City of Fresno
City of Irvine
City of Long Beach
City of Los Angeles
City of Oakland
City of Riverside
City of Sacramento
City of San Diego
City of San Francisco
City of San Jose
City of Stockton
Climate Action Campaign
Coalition for Clean Air

Downtown Los Angeles Residents Association
Downtown San Diego Partnership
Dtla Residents Association
Greenbelt Alliance
Mayor Matt Mahan, City of San Jose
Sacramento Councilmember Caity Maple
Yimby Democrats of San Diego County
Zillow Group

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 64-6, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Lackey, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo, Ta

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 11:38:14

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2080
Author: Johnson (R)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0, 5/7/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Investment of funds: delegation to county treasurer

SOURCE: California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

DIGEST: This bill allows a county board of supervisors to delegate investment authority to the county treasurer indefinitely, or until the board revokes the authority, if the county's investment policy meets specified reporting requirements.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address chaptering conflicts with SB 1438 (Committee on Local Government).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that, except as otherwise provided, the county officers to be elected by the people are the treasurer, county clerk, auditor, sheriff, tax collector, district attorney, recorder, assessor, public administrator, and coroner.

2) Requires the county treasurer to receive and keep safely all money belonging to the county.

3) Authorizes the board of supervisors to, by ordinance, delegate to the county treasurer the authority to invest or reinvest the funds of the county and the funds of other depositors in the county treasury. The county treasurer shall thereafter assume full responsibility for those transactions until the board of supervisors

either revokes its delegation of authority, by ordinance, or decides not to renew the annual delegation.

4) Specifies that with regard to county funds deposited in the county treasury, the board of supervisors is the agent of the county who serves as a fiduciary and is subject to the prudent investor standard, unless a delegation has occurred, in which case the county treasurer shall be the agent of the county with respect to these funds, serve as a fiduciary, and be subject to the prudent investor standard and the board of supervisors shall not be the agent, serve as a fiduciary, or be subject to the prudent investor standard.

5) Provides that when investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, or managing public funds, the primary objective of the county treasurer or the board of supervisors, as the case may be, shall be to safeguard the principal of the funds under the treasurer's or the board's control. The secondary objective shall be to meet the liquidity needs of the depositor. The third objective shall be to achieve a return on the funds under his or her control.

6) The board of supervisors in each county or city and county may, if the county or city and county is investing surplus funds, establish a county treasury oversight committee, as specified.

7) Provides that the authority of the legislative body to invest or to reinvest funds of a local agency, or to sell or exchange securities so purchased, may be delegated for a one-year period by the legislative body to the treasurer of the local agency, who shall thereafter assume full responsibility for those transactions until the delegation of authority is revoked or expires, and shall make a monthly report of those transactions to the legislative body. Subject to review, the legislative body may renew the delegation of authority pursuant to this section each year.

This bill allows, in addition to annually delegating investment authority to the county treasurer, a county board of supervisors to delegate investment authority to the county treasurer indefinitely, or until the board revokes the authority, if the county's investment policy requires monthly transaction reports and quarterly investment policy reports to the board.

Background

Issues regarding whether county treasurers use their delegated investment authority wisely appear from time to time. For example, on December 6, 1994, Orange County became the largest municipality in U.S. history to declare bankruptcy at the

time. The county treasurer had lost $1.7 billion of taxpayers' money through investments in risky Wall Street securities. In 1994, the Orange County investment pool had about $7.6 billion in deposits from the county government and almost 200 local public agencies (cities, school districts, and special districts). Borrowing $2 for every $1 on deposit, the County Treasurer increased the size of the investment pool to $20.6 billion. While in bankruptcy, every county program budget was cut, about 3,000 public employees were discharged, and all services were reduced. Orange County did not make its final payment on the $1 billion bond that helped it get out of bankruptcy until 2017. Following Orange County's bankruptcy filing, the Legislature enacted a number of bills to increase protections and address these problems, including SB 109 (Kopp, Chapter 749, Statutes of 1996), which required the investment delegation to be made on an annual basis.

More recently, at the end of 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors elected not to extend their county treasurer's investment authority due to concerns over the county's oversight regarding investment practices, which had not happened in the county since 2010. In February 2025, the board of supervisors passed an ordinance to allow the county Chief Financial Officer, who is under the county's Chief Executive Officer, to exercise investment authority, not the county treasurer, which is an independent elective office.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "As a former local elected official, I'm happy to be authoring AB 2080, which will help to ensure that investment authority delegation is not interrupted by requirements that such authority is renewed on an annual basis. By changing this practice to instead requiring a proactive revocation of delegated authority, this bill will streamline county finances without sacrificing necessary oversight and reporting mechanisms."

Not so fast. Requiring the board of supervisors to annually authorize the county treasurer to invest county funds on their behalf ensures that the treasurer's investment practices align with county policies. While AB 2080 preserves the ability of a board of supervisors to revoke a treasurer's investment authority, or to not delegate investment authority at all, it removes the annual requirement for the board to delegate the authority. This means the board of supervisors would have to proactively identify investment concerns, rather than conduct an annual review before they renew the treasurer's authority. That said, conditioning investment authority on an annual board decision does come at a cost. If the county board does not make the delegation in a timely fashion, investment decisions could be missed or delayed, putting taxpayer dollars at risk. AB 2080 preserves existing

reporting requirements, which puts more pressure on the board of supervisors to actively monitor county treasurer investment decisions on an ongoing basis.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors (Source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0, 5/7/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Hart, Hoover, Lee, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis, Wicks

Prepared by: Jonathan Peterson / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/24/26 12:03:19

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2081
Author: Stefani (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver

SOURCE: Cardea Health

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to expand the number of Home and Community-Based Alternative waiver slots by 5,000, subject to federal approval, and authorizes DHCS to evaluate and designate additional populations receiving priority enrollment, subject to federal cost-neutrality requirements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Permits, under federal law, a state Medicaid program to pay for part or all of the cost of home and community-based services (HCBS) that are federally approved, and which are provided pursuant to a written plan of care to individuals with respect to whom there has been a determination that but for the provision of such services the individual would require the level of care provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for the

developmentally disabled, the cost of which could be otherwise be reimbursed by the state's Medicaid program. [42 USC §1396n]

2) Establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the DHCS, which provides medical coverage to low income persons. [Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §14000, et seq.]

3) Establishes a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program, which includes benefits required under federal law and benefits provided at the state's option, both of which are funded with federal and state dollars. The schedule of benefits includes HCBS approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the extent that federal financial participation is available for those services under the state plan or an applicable federal waiver. [WIC §14132]

4) Requires DHCS to seek all necessary waivers in order to provide for HCBS services approvable under federal law and limits coverage of HCBS services to the terms, conditions, and duration of the federal waiver. [WIC §14132 and §14137]

5) Establishes authority and requirements for the Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital Transition and Diversion waiver (the predecessor to the Home and Community-Based Alternative (HCBA) waiver) to provide care management and access to home- and community-based services, for persons requiring hospital, nursing facility, or other institutional care that would otherwise be covered by Medi-Cal who can be treated safely at home, or for individuals who have been continuously receiving in home care services under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment State Plan benefit, California Children Services or Pediatric Palliative Care programs for children, for at least the prior three months but have at the time of transition exceeded the age limit for that benefit. [WIC §14132.991]

6) Requires DHCS to propose that the waiver program meet federal annual cost neutrality requirements in the aggregate.

This bill:

1) Requires DHCS to increase the total number of HCBA waiver slots by 5,000, in addition to any planned expansion of waiver slots federally approved as of January 1, 2026, beginning in 2027.

2) Authorizes DHCS to evaluate the populations described in 5) above in order to maintain the aggregate the cost neutrality; and, based on this evaluation, designate additional populations within those described populations for whom enrollment in HCBA would be cost neutral.

3) Specifies that the requirement to increase HCBA waiver slots does not require DHCS to enroll individuals in all waiver slots if doing so would be inconsistent with achieving aggregate annual cost neutrality or the most recent evaluation conducted pursuant to 2) above.

4) Authorizes DHCS to seek any amendments to the HCBA waiver or other actions as necessary to implement this bill, including issuing guidance in lieu of regulations.

5) Updates the name of the Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital Transition and Diversion waiver to the currently used HCBA waiver.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> Medi-Cal's HCBA program helps medically vulnerable Californians receive high quality care in their own homes and communities instead of being forced into institutional settings. It supports people with serious medical needs, including adults living with disabilities, medically fragile children, seniors with chronic needs, and others with complex health conditions, so they can remain with their families while receiving the care they need. The program improves quality of life and saves the state money, generating about $110 million in annual cost savings. Yet enrollment caps have limited its impact and left more than 5,600 vulnerable Californians stuck on a waiting list without access to these critical services. Expanding the HCBA waiver program will ensure Medi-Cal recipients, including people with significant health needs who are experiencing homelessness, can access the care they need, live with dignity, and remain in their communities. California should not be forcing medically vulnerable people into institutions when safe, cost-effective care at home is within reach.

Medi-Cal HCBS waivers. HCBS waivers allow states that participate in Medicaid to develop alternatives for individuals who would otherwise require care in an institutional setting. The Medi-Cal program has an agreement with the federal

government, which allows for waiver services to be offered in either a home or community setting. The services offered under the waiver must cost no more than the alternative institutional level of care. The services available under HCBS waivers include case management, community transition services, private duty nursing, family training, home health aides, life-sustaining utility reimbursement, habilitation services, respite care, and other services required to maintain the health and safety of eligible participants in the community setting of their choice.

HCBA waiver program. The HCBA waiver is one of several HCBS waiver programs in California. It provides care management services to persons of any age who are medically fragile or technologically dependent. The care management services are provided by a multidisciplinary Care Management Team comprised of a nurse and social worker. The Care Management Team coordinates waiver and state plan services (those services available to all Medi-Cal recipients, such as medical, behavioral health, In-Home Supportive Services, etc.), and arranges for other long-term services and supports available in the local community. Care management and waiver services are provided in the participant's community-based residence. This residence can be privately owned, secured through a tenant lease arrangement, or the residence of a participant's family member.

The HCBA waiver program is approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in five-year increments, and was most recently approved on February 2, 2023 for the 2023-2027 period. There is an enrollment cap, and the program reached maximum capacity. A waiting list was implemented on July 12, 2023. New applicants can apply and secure a placement on a waiting list with the assigned Waiver Agency in their area of residence. When slots are available, applicants will be prioritized based on Reserve Capacity criteria that includes applicants transitioning from other HCBS programs because their needs can no longer be met, applicants under 21, or applicants who have been residing in a health care facility (such as a nursing home) for at least 60 days. Adult applicants currently receiving care at home with institutional-level needs are the lowest priority.

The HCBA waitlist is currently over 6,000 individuals. According to the DHCS May 2026 Medi-Cal Local Assistance Estimate (Medi-Cal estimate), based on historical enrollment and attrition trends, it was determined that the waiver would reach capacity before the end of 2023. DHCS submitted a waiver amendment to begin phasing in new slots on January 1, 2024; CMS approved the waiver amendment on December 11, 2023. According to the waiver amendment, the total number of slots for 2026 was increased from 12,782 to 15,313, while the total

number of slots for 2027 was increased from 13,932 to 17,321. However, the Medi-Cal estimate states that updated enrollment data is trending lower than estimated, and is thus estimating only approximately 10,500 members for fiscal year 2026-2027 (despite December 2025 enrollment of 10,760, according to the DHCS enrollment dashboard).

A January 2025 analysis, *California Home and Community Based Services Gap Analysis Report,* funded by DHCS, noted that the formal HCBS waiver waitlists were only one part of the problem. Lack of providers or staffing shortages at providers also limited participation in these programs. According to a May 4, 2026 fact sheet by Justice in Aging, administrative complexities, including staffing shortages at DHCS, have also caused delays in waiver enrollment. Individuals who are not prioritized, those currently at home or enrolled in another program, face even longer waits.

It should also be noted that the current waitlist consists primarily of individuals moving from the community, rather than those in the priority populations, which includes individuals transitioning from other waivers, children and young adults, and institutionalized individuals, due to how cost neutrality is calculated. In other words, fewer slots are available for individuals transitioning from the community.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 111 (Laird, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2026), the Budget Act of 2026, includes $1.5 million to support staffing or contract authority to enable DHCS to clear the HCBA waiver waitlist and serve all eligible individuals seeking enrollment in the HCBA waiver program.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee: Unknown ongoing costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, for DHCS for state administration (General Fund and federal funds).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Cardea Health (source)
Abode Services
Alameda Alliance for Health
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles

Alzheimer's Orange County
Alzheimer's San Diego
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
California Association for Health Services At Home
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Medical Product Suppliers
California Children's Hospital Association
California Coalition on Family Caregiving
California Collaborative for Long-term Services and Supports
California Commission on Aging
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association
California PACE Association
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Caring Across Generations
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Choice in Aging
City and County of San Francisco
County of Alameda
County of San Mateo
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Disability Rights California
East Bay Innovations
Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco
Fathers and Mothers Who Care
GLIDE
Home Health Care Management, Inc.
Justice in Aging
LeadingAge California
Libertana Home Health
Nonprofit Alliance of Homelessness and Housing Providers of Alameda County
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration
Valon Consulting
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Several individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Source, Cardea Health, a provider that serves individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs, including those experiencing homelessness, writes that for many individuals, the HCBA waiver is the only pathway to remain safely in the community. They regularly identify individuals who meet HCBA eligibility criteria but cannot access services due to limited waiver capacity. These are individuals with documented medical necessity; who remain unsheltered, hospitalized, or at risk of institutionalization because there are not enough waiver slots available. Disability Rights California writes that when access to HCBA waiver services are delayed, families are forced into impossible decisions: going without adequate care or placing loved ones in institutions, often far from their support networks. In addition to the worse health outcomes, this also undermines the right to receive services in the least restrictive setting. The Children's Specialty Care Coalition writes that the inability to come home with proper nursing support increases the chance of children staying hospitalized longer or being sent to pediatric subacute facilities. When kids do go home without appropriate care, medically fragile kids are placed at substantial risk of adverse outcomes or even death and families are at risk of undergoing extreme stress in attempting to provide the care themselves.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wicks

Prepared by: Jen Flory / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/17/26 10:47:42

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2103
Author: Irwin (D)
Amended: 8/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones, Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Office of Data and Innovation: Engaged California Program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Engaged California Program within the Office of Data and Innovation (ODI) inside the Government Operations Agency.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/18/26 provide that the Engaged California Program can fulfill its conditional deliberation responsibilities if the office partners with a state entity or there is a proclaimed state of emergency, and make various technical changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law provides for open meetings and citizen participation from local school boards to the California State Legislature. The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Government [Gov.] Code §§ 11120-11132) requires meetings of state boards and commissions to be conducted openly. Additionally, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code §§ 54950-54963) imposes similar requirements on local legislative bodies.

This bill:

1) Creates the Engaged California Act within the Office of Data and Innovation (ODI) within the Government Operations Agency. ODI is to operate as a standalone entity within the agency.

2) Establishes the mission of ODI as delivering better government services to the people of California through technology and service innovation, data, and design. The office shall fulfill this mission by:

   a) Collaborating with state entities to transform government services.

   b) Investing in state capabilities to put users first.

   c) Empowering agencies to use data ethically, efficiently, effectively, securely, responsibly, and in a manner that respects privacy.

   d) Improving how the state buys digital services and datasets.

   e) Expanding the use of common platforms, servicers, and tools.

3) Requires ODI to design, operate, and maintain the platform, establish standards, guidance, and best practices for use of the platform, consistent with state and federal law, ensuring the platform remains up to date for future deployment.

4) Conditions the program's deliberation responsibilities the selection of a topic and the following conditions:

   a) Upon appropriation by the Legislature.

   b) The office partners with a state entity with discretionary funding to fund an engagement.

   c) During a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act.

5) Establishes a process for the deliberation and selection of discussion topics as specified.

6) Requires the office to solicit participation from diverse groups of participants, including all economic segments.

7) Expands ODI's existing annual report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to include detailed information on each Engaged California deliberation, including topic, problem definition, platform used, data sources, agencies impacted, participant demographics and identification methods,

outcomes and recommendations, and follow-up status of prior-year deliberations.

8) Provides that any unspent Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 program funds remain available for use during the FY 2027-28.

9) Adds personal information protections for data collected through the program, consistent with the Information Practices Act.

Background

Open and transparent communication with government is a central value of American democracy. However, as governments have grown larger and more complex, the ability of California citizens to access their government has grown equally more complex. This bill seeks to address a structural gap in how Californians participate in state policymaking and how state government gathers public input.

This bill creates the Engaged California Program within ODI to facilitate structured dialogue between Californians and their state government through deliberation and shared learning. It authorizes the Legislature to fund the program and participate in the selection of discussion topics. It sets additional reporting requirements, including topic, problem definition, data sources, agencies impacted, and participant demographics, as specified.

This bill is author-sponsored and supported by a coalition of tech associations, (Technet, TechCA) and citizen advocacy groups (Elevate California, Project Liberty, LLC). No opposition has been received. For a more thorough analysis of this bill, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis.

Comment

According to the author:

> AB 2103 modernizes how Californians engage with their government by codifying Engaged California within the Office of Data and Innovation as a permanent statewide public engagement program. While traditional tools like hearings and public comment remain important, they do not always capture the full diversity and tapestry of California's communities. This bill provides a durable framework for structured public deliberation so that Californians from different backgrounds and regions can participate more meaningfully in state

policymaking and help generate actionable recommendations that inform government policies. This measure ensures that the program can continue across administrations, preserving an innovative model for enhanced civic engagement.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No
According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Major administrative costs to ODI to continue statutory governance and operational requirements of the Engaged California Program (Data and Innovation Services Revolving Fund, General Fund).

Significant to major costs to state entities to participate in Engaged California Programs for outreach, community engagement, communications, data sharing and technical expertise depending on the topics selected. (Special funds, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Elevate California
Project Liberty, LLC
Responsive Gov Action
TechCA
Technet

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Elevate California writes:

AB 2103 represents an important step forward in modernizing how Californians engage with their government. By codifying Engaged California as a permanent statewide public engagement program within the Office of Data and Innovation, this bill ensures that more inclusive, representative, and deliberative processes become a sustained part of state governance.
Engaged California's model—bringing together diverse cohorts of residents, providing balanced educational materials, and facilitating structured dialogue—aligns closely with Elevate California's commitment to amplifying the voices of everyday Californians. AB 2103 provides the stability and flexibility needed to sustain and scale this effort across state government.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz

Prepared by: Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/19/26 9:35:39

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2121
Author: Berman (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/10/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Cortese, Menjivar, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-1, 5/14/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Community colleges: current expense of education: exclusions

SOURCE: West Valley-Mission Community College District

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a community college district (CCD) to exclude, as part of its current expense of education, any local unrestricted expenditures from a CCD's unrestricted general fund maintaining student support functions previously funded through federal discretionary grants that were terminated due to federal action on or after September 10, 2025, for a period of five fiscal years following the 2025-26 fiscal year or until federal funding is fully restored.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/13/26 remove and urgency clause, respond to questions about this bill raised by the California Federation of Teachers, and give the bill a lower vote threshold to pass the Senate floor.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/4/26 require a CCD opting to exclude expenditures from its current expense of education pursuant to the provisions of this bill to (1) first present this action at a regular public meeting of the governing board of the CCD, (2) identify the action as a distinct agenda item, and (3) provide advance notice of the item to the campus community, including faculty, consistent with the CCD's established practices for noticing governing board meetings.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Community Colleges (CCCs), a postsecondary education system in this state, under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG), and specifies that the CCC system consists of CCDs. (Education Code (EC) § 70900)

2) Defines "current expense of education" as the gross total expended for the purposes classified in the final budget of a district for the following:

   a) Academic salaries other than academic salaries for student transportation, food services, and community services.

   b) Classified salaries other than classified salaries for student transportation, food services, and community services.

   c) Employee benefits other than employee benefits for student transportation personnel, food services personnel, and community services personnel.

   d) Books, supplies, and equipment replacement other than for student transportation and food services.

   e) Community services, contracted services, and other operating expenses other than for student transportation, food services, and community services. (EC § 84362)

3) States that "current expense of education" does not include:

   a) Expenditures classified as sites, buildings, books, media, and new equipment.

   b) The amount expended from categorical aid received from the federal or state government which funds were granted for expenditures in a program not incurring any instructor salary expenditures or requiring disbursement of the funds without regard to the requirements of this section.

   c) Expenditures for facility acquisition and construction.

d) The amount expended pursuant to any lease agreement for plant and equipment or the amount expended from funds received from the federal government pursuant to the "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964" or any extension of that act of Congress or the amount expended by a community college from state or federal funds received by the community college for grants to community college students or for the employment of community college students. (EC § 84362)

4) Requires that, during each fiscal year, a CCD expend 50% of the district's current expense of education for payment of salaries of classroom instructors. Also known colloquially as the Fifty Percent Law. (EC § 84362)

5) Requires the BOG, for CCDs that have not expended at least 50% of their current expense of education, to designate an amount of apportionment equal to the deficiency in CCD expenditures and make those funds unavailable for expenditure by the CCD pending the determination to be made by the BOG on any application for exemption which may be submitted to the BOG. (EC § 84362)

6) Requires, if no exemption is made or an exemption is denied, the BOG to order the designated amount or amount not exempted to be added to the amounts expended for salaries for classroom instructors during the next fiscal year. (EC § 84362)

7) Permits the governing board of a CCD to apply to the BOG, in writing, not later than September 15 of the immediately succeeding fiscal year for exemption from the requirements of the Fifty Percent Law, in the event it appears to the governing board of a CCD that the application of the Fifty Percent Law during a fiscal year results in serious hardship to the CCD, or in the payment of salaries of classroom instructors in excess of the salaries of classroom instructors paid by other districts of comparable type and functioning under comparable conditions. (EC § 84362)

8) Permits the BOG to grant an exemption for a CCD from the requirement for the fiscal year for which the application is made if a majority of all the members of the BOG finds, in writing, that the CCD will suffer serious hardship or will have to pay salaries of classroom instructors in excess of those paid by other CCDs of comparable type and functioning under comparable conditions, unless the CCD is granted an exemption. (EC § 84362)

9) Requires the BOG, no later than the 10th calendar day of each year of the Legislature, to submit to the Legislature a written report on the operation, effect, and the extent of compliance with this section by CCDs during the two most recently ended fiscal years. (EC § 84362)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a CCD, for a period of five fiscal years following the 2025-26 fiscal year or until federal funding is fully restored to every CCD, to exclude, as part of its current expense of education, any local unrestricted expenditures from a CCD's unrestricted general fund that maintain student support functions previously funded through federal discretionary grants that have been terminated, nonrenewed, or defunded due to federal action on or after September 10, 2025.

2) Requires CCDs that choose to exclude expenditures to annually certify eligibility to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), consistent with existing law, and requires the CCCCO to maintain documentation and include certifications the CCCCO receives from CCDs in the annual report the CCCCO submits on the current expense of education.

3) Prohibits excluded expenditures from exceeding the amount of federal discretionary grant funding awarded for use by a CCD to maintain student support functions before the termination, nonrenewal, or defunding of federal discretionary grants due to federal action on or after September 10, 2025.

4) Prohibits excluded expenditures from being considered in determining compliance with a CCD's current expense of education requirement, and prohibits the use of excluded expenditures as grounds to reduce instructional expenditures.

5) Requires that a CCD continues to have the obligation to do all of the following:

    a) Maintain compliance with the requirement that not less than 50% of a CCD's current expense of education be expended for salaries of classroom instructors.

    b) Maintain compliance with the Faculty Obligation Number and related requirements established by the BOG.

c) Not reduce the number of full-time faculty positions or otherwise diminish the overall quality of instruction.

d) Avoid the use of the exclusion to fund the creation or expansion of administrative positions, or to provide compensation increases to administrators or supervisors beyond adjustments otherwise authorized by existing contracts or salary schedules.

e) Continue to treat as a matter of negotiation any decisions affecting instructional assignments, faculty load, or course offerings.

6) Defines the following terms:

a) "Discretionary grant" means a grant awarded on a competitive basis by the United States Department of Education to a CCD for the specific and limited purpose of funding student support functions, and does not include a financial award provided directly to an individual student on the basis of student eligibility.

b) "Student support functions" means any activities that were authorized to be funded by federal discretionary grants awarded to a CCD that has been terminated, nonrenewed, or defunded due to federal action on or after September 10, 2025. "Student support functions" include, but are not limited to: academic tutoring; individualized counseling; mentoring programs; providing information on the full range of federal student financial aid programs and benefits; developing articulation agreements designed to facilitate the transfer of students; and faculty development, curriculum development, and academic instruction support.

7) Requires that the provisions of this bill become inoperative on July 1, 2031, or on the first day of the fiscal year following the full restoration of the federal funding for every CCD, whichever occurs first, and requires that the provisions of this bill be repealed on January 1 of the year following the date that this section becomes inoperative.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "In September 2025, the Trump administration terminated $350 million in Minority Serving Institution (MSI) grants, leaving colleges without funding for these vital student support programs. The administration's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget seeks to eliminate MSI and

TRIO programs entirely, threatening long-standing initiatives that provide counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and transfer guidance to more than 1.6 million California community college students. These cuts threaten services that help California's most vulnerable students – low-income, first-generation, and students of color – complete their degrees.

The author continues, "AB 2121 responds to the Trump administration's systematic dismantling of federal student success programs by removing barriers that prevent community colleges from backfilling this loss in federal funding. By temporarily excluding those backfill dollars from the Fifty Percent Law, community colleges can preserve federally-defunded student supports."

Federal government actions for various discretionary grants. Actions taken by the federal government have created programmatic and fiscal uncertainty at the CCCs, including the sudden termination of certain discretionary federal grants in September 2025, including Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Grants, Minority Serving Institution (MSI) Grants, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Grants. The federal government also terminated some federal TRIO grants in September 2025 for specified higher education institutions, which are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. According to the CCCCO, these HSI, MSI, and AANAPISI grants were provided to select colleges and are projected to be a loss of $61.4 million statewide over the next 5 years:

	(In millions)					
Program	**2025-26**	**2026-27**	**2027-28**	**2028-29**	**2029-30**	**Total**
HSI	$26.4	$13.4	$7.5	$4.7	-	**$52.0**
MSI	$1.6	$1.2	$0.4	$0.0	$0.5	**$3.8**
AANAPISI	$3.2	$2.0	$0.4	$0.0	-	**$5.6**
Total	**$31.2**	**$16.6**	**$8.3**	**$4.7**	**$0.5**	**$61.4**

Differences between the current statutory exemption and the exclusions authorized by this bill. Existing law requires CCDs that have not complied with the Fifty Percent Law to designate the amount equal to the deficiency in expenditures and have those amounts expended for salaries for classroom instructors during the next fiscal year. Current statute also permits CCDs to apply for an exemption if the application of the Fifty Percent Law results in a serious hardship for the CCD. This

bill provides a process for temporarily *excluding* specified expenditures from the calculation of the Fifty Percent Law, rather than *exempting* them.

According to the author, "a qualifying district may exclude the expenditures and certify eligibility to the Chancellor's Office annually, rather than an exemption [and] applying for after-the-fact discretionary relief. This provides upfront budget certainty districts need to commit resources during the budget planning cycle."

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 116 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 25, Statutes of 2020) requires, from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021, a CCD from excluding from its computation of the Fifty Percent Law any expenditures incurred by that district during a state or local declared emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic that are not otherwise normal expenditures that would have been incurred by the CCD.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

West Valley-Mission Community College District (source)
Antelope Valley Community College District
Associated Students of West Valley College
Association of California Community College Administrators
Campaign for College Opportunity
Community College League of California
EdTrust-West
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Kern Community College District
Lake Tahoe Community College District
Los Rios Community College District
Mission College Classified Senate
San Bernardino Community College District
Southwestern Community College District
State Center Community College District
The Institute for College Access and Success
University of California Student Association
Victor Valley Community College District
West Valley College Classified Senate

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Teachers Association
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-1, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Garcia, Hadwick, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Zbur

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:47:44

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2142
Author: Garcia (D)
Amended: 4/23/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 7/1/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-16, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: School districts: community college districts: short-term employees: classified service

SOURCE: California Federation of Teachers
California School Employees Association

DIGEST: This bill requires school and community college districts using a merit system to replace short-term positions with permanent classified positions under specified conditions unless the district could rebut the presumption that positions meeting the conditions are classified, not short-term positions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the governing board of a school district to employ persons for positions not requiring certification qualifications and classify all of these employees and positions, except as specified. The employees and positions shall be known as the classified service. (Education Code § 45103)

2) Allows school districts to employ short-term employees who are employed and paid for less than 75% of a school year, and provides that short-term employees are not part of the classified service. (Education Code § 45103 (b))

3) Defines "short-term employee" to mean a person who is employed to perform a service for the school district, upon the completion of which, the service required or similar services will not be extended or needed on a continuing basis. Before employing a short-term employee, the governing board of a school district, at a regularly scheduled board meeting, shall specify the service required to be performed by the employee pursuant to the definition of "classification" in subdivision (a) of Section 45101, and shall certify the ending date of the service. The ending date may be shortened or extended by the governing board of a school district, but shall not extend beyond 75% of a school year. (Education Code 45103 (d)(2))

4) Provides that the provisions described above apply only to school districts not incorporating the merit system. (Education Code 45103 (f))

5) Requires the governing board of a community college district to employ persons for positions that are not academic positions and classify those employees and positions, as specified, to be known as the classified service. (Education Code § 88003)

6) Allows community college districts to employ short-term employees who are employed and paid for less than 75% of a college year, and provides that short-term employees are not part of the classified service. (Education Code § 88003)

7) Defines "short-term employee" to mean a person who is employed to perform a service for the community college district, upon the completion of which, the service required or similar services will not be extended or needed on a continuing basis. Before employing a short-term employee, the governing board of a community college district, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of the community college district, shall specify the service required to be performed by the employee pursuant to the definition of "classification" in subdivision (a) of Section 88001, and shall certify the ending date of the service. The ending date may be shortened or extended by the governing board of the community college district, but shall not extend beyond 75 percent of a school [college] year. (Education Code § 88003 (c)(1))

8) Provides that the provisions described above applicable to a community college district, apply only to a community college district not incorporating the merit system. (Education Code 88003 (f))

This bill:

1) Provides a rebuttable presumption that a school or community college district is required to replace a short-term employee position with a position in the classified service if any of the following occurs:

   a) The short-term employee performs the required service of the position beyond 75% of a school year.

   b) The short-term employee voluntarily separates or is laid off or terminated from employment for at least 50% but less than 75% of a school year, and the same employee is then rehired in the next school year to perform substantially the same services for at least 50% of the school year.

   c) The services of the short-term employee position are used at least 50% of a school year for three of five consecutive school years.

Comments

Need for this bill? According to the author:

"School districts and community colleges are allowed to hire classified 'short-term' workers for a variety of classified positions. These workers are defined largely as anyone who is employed to perform a service for the school, upon the completion of which, the service required will not be extended or needed on a continuing basis. These "short-term" employees may only be employed for 75 percent of a school year.

Although these positions are deemed 'not needed on a continuing basis', in theory; they are in fact utilized continuously for many years.

… [The bill's supporters] have shared many such situations where people are being worked as short-term employees for 10 years or more. The practice denies employees the status and benefits of regular employment."

Related/ Prior Legislation

AB 1247 (Garcia, 2025) would have required that contracted employees at a school district or community college district (CCD) meet or exceed the minimum qualifications and standards required of direct hires with the same job functions, as prescribed, and would have required a district provide them with the same health care or retirement benefit contributions as a direct hire. The bill also would have

required that a school district or CCD compensate classified employees for any time necessary to complete required training at the employee's regular pay rate. *The Assembly Appropriations held the bill in committee.*

AB 2413 (Carrillo, Chapter 913, Statutes of 2022) prohibits K-12 and community college (CCC) districts from suspending without pay, suspending with a reduction in pay, demoting, or dismissing a permanent classified employee who timely requests a hearing on the charges against the employee before the district or hearing officer renders a decision on the matter except for certain conduct as specified.

AB 438 (Reyes, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2021) made specified changes related to layoff procedures for classified employees at school and community college districts including requiring district superintendents to provide notice no later than March 15 prior to the ensuing school year of the superintendent's recommendation to the district governing board to initiate required layoff procedures.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- This bill would result in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures to school districts, potentially reaching the millions of dollars annually. The magnitude of these costs would depend on the number of temporary employees who, as a result of the bill, must be retained as permanent employees.

- The Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (CCC) indicates that updating an existing policy to establish a rebuttable presumption when a "short-term employee" is considered a classified employee, would result in costs of $34,000 to $76,000 per district. Accounting for all 72 CCDs, the total costs would range between $2.4 million and $5.4 million (General Fund, Proposition 98). Administrative costs to CCC would be minor and absorbable

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

California Federation of Teachers (co-source)
California School Employees Association (co-source)
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Teachers Association

Service Employees International Union, California
Teamsters California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

Association of California School Administrators
California Association of School Business Officials
California Association of Suburban School Districts
California County Superintendents
California School Boards Association
Central Valley Education Coalition
Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Board
Community College League of California
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Small School Districts' Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the California Federation of Teachers:

"EC [Education Code] Sections 45103 and 88103 allow education employers to bring on "short-term employees" for up to 75% of a school year and deny them every single right explicitly guaranteed by law to classified workers. As concerning as this section of law is, the reality is even worse: sometimes these workers are kept on as short-term employees for years if not decades, leaving dedicated employees languishing in unacceptable working conditions for far too long and in clear violation of the law.

For example, classified workers are guaranteed certain rehire rights that reward seniority when bringing workers back on after layoffs. Another section of the Education Code guarantees vacation days, accrued at the rate of 5/6 of a day for each month of work, to those employed for six months or longer. A similar section ensures that classified workers earn 12 sick days for every year on the job. Short-term employees, meanwhile, are denied all of these rights and many more. Action must be taken to ensure that, at a minimum, workers who have passed the aforementioned 75% cutoff are immediately awarded all rights and benefits guaranteed by current law.

AB 2142 (Garcia) clarifies that workers employed for more than 75% of the school year are automatically placed into the classified service. The bill further details that employers cannot skirt the law by bringing workers back in future years and

continue refusing to award workers their earned rights and benefits as members of the classified service."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to a coalition of statewide and regional education organizations and local educational agencies, including the Association of California School Administrators and the California School Boards Association:

"AB 2142 would drastically change the way that short-term or temporary classified positions are established and how those positions are filled. Regrettably, it establishes an arbitrary new set of thresholds and minimum days served, with carry-over between multiple years of service in subsequent academic years. AB 2142 also creates a rebuttable presumption that an employee reaches permanent status after completing 195 days of service, including all leave allowances.

…We are also concerned with the potential impact that AB 2142 would have on March 15 layoff notice requirements. Tying permanency to a percentage of an individual's rolling threshold makes alignment with the fixed layoff notice deadline extremely difficult.

…Finally, we believe this bill could result in the unintended consequence of experienced, trusted employees not being hired in future school years. Episodic hourly costs convert to multi-year salary and benefit obligations funded primarily by the general fund, with substantially increased per-employee costs and long-term fiscal exposure. Schools will not be able to support the cost of returning employees becoming permanent and will seek other candidates to fill positions."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-16, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Glenn Miles / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/15/26 9:23:34

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2152
Author: Mark González (D) and Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-1, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: essential local fire station projects: infrastructure project streamlining

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes expedited administrative and judicial review procedures under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for "essential local fire station projects," requiring the courts to resolve lawsuits within 270 days, to the extent feasible.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 revise and recast the provisions of the bill to remove the creation of specific CEQA judicial streamlining program for essential fire stations and instead add essential fire stations, as defined, to the list of programs eligible for CEQA judicial streamlining as part of the Environmental Leadership Develop Program (ELDP): these projects are certified as eligible by the Governor.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, via CEQA, lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project to prepare a negative declaration (ND), mitigated negative declaration (MND), or environmental impact report (EIR) for the project, unless the project is exempt from CEQA. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §21000 et seq.). If a project may have a significant effect on the environment, the lead agency must prepare a draft EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15064(a)(1), (f)(1))

2) Establishes processes and timelines for lawsuits that challenge a public agency's compliance with the requirements of CEQA including:

    a) Challenges must be filed in the superior court within 30 days of filing the notice of approval;

    b) The courts are required to give CEQA actions preference over all other civil actions;

    c) Requires the court to regulate the briefing schedule so that, to the extent feasible, hearings commence within 1 year of the filing of the appeal;

    d) Requires the plaintiff to request a hearing within 90 days of filing the petition; and

    e) Requires the court to establish a briefing schedule and a hearing date, requires briefing to be completed within 90 days of the plaintiff's request for hearing, and requires the hearing, to the extent feasible, to be held within 30 days thereafter. (Public Resources Code Section (PRC) 21167 et seq.)

3) Establishes the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011 (AB 900, Buchanan, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2011), which established CEQA administrative and judicial review procedures for an "environmental leadership" project. The Act was later extended and modified in 2021 (SB 7, Atkins, Chapter 19, Statutes of 2021). Establishes expedited judicial and administrative CEQA processes for a broad swath of energy, transportation, water, and semiconductor projects eligible for expedited judicial

review under CEQA in SB 149 (Caballero, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023). (PRC §21178 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Defines an essential local fire station project as one meeting the following criteria:
   a) The project is undertaken by a city, county, city and county, or local fire agency to plan, design, acquire property for, and construct or replace a fire station.
   b) The project will employ best practices, as compared to similar fire station projects previously reviewed under CEQA

   c) The project's construction contracts are covered by a project labor agreement, as that term is defined in Section 2500 of the Public Contract Code.

   d) The project is not located on the following sensitive sites:

      i) Prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland as designated by the Department of Conservation;

      ii) Wetlands, as defined in specified federal regulations;

      iii) A hazardous waste site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (i.e., the "Cortese List");

      iv) A floodplain, as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, unless the project includes adequate flood protection as determined by the lead agency;

      v) Within a delineated earthquake fault zone, as determined by the State Geologist, in any official maps published by the State Geologist, unless the development complies with applicable seismic protection building code standards adopted by the California Building Standards Commission;

      vi) Lands identified for conservation in an adopted natural community conservation plan, a habitat conservation plan, or other adopted natural resource protection plan;

vii) Habitat for protected species identified as candidate, sensitive, or species of special status by state or federal agencies, fully protected species, or species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, or the Native Plant Protection Act; or

viii) Lands under conservation easement;

e) Makes these 'essential fire station' projects eligible for the Environmental Leadership Development Program. Under the ELDP, eligible projects that are certified by the Governor as meeting this criteria are eligible for judicial streamlining of 270 days as feasible, and administrative streamlining wherein the lead agency concurrently prepares the record of proceedings with the EIR.

Background

The A, B, C's of CEQA. CEQA is designed to (a) make government agencies and the public aware of the environmental impacts of a proposed project, (b) ensure the public can take part in the review process, and (c) identify and implement measures to mitigate or eliminate any negative impact the project may have on the environment. CEQA is enforced by civil lawsuits that can challenge any project's environmental review. Nonprofits, private individuals, public agencies, advocacy groups, and other organizations can all file lawsuits under CEQA.

Under CEQA, projects (unless they have a specific exemption) must undergo environmental analysis. This process starts with an initial study which determines what level of further environmental review is needed for a given project. If a project has no significant effects on the environment, or if those effects can be fully mitigated, the project can move forward with an ND or MND. If the initial study finds that the project has potential significant effects on the environment, then a full EIR is conducted. An EIR provides thorough environmental review of a proposed project, analyzing the significant direct and indirect environmental impacts of a proposed project on water quality, transportation, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, terrestrial and aquatic biological resources, surface and subsurface hydrology, land use and agricultural resources, aesthetics, geology and soils, recreation, public services and utilities such as water supply and wastewater disposal, and cultural resources, among other factors. The EIR also includes

proposed mitigation measures for any significant effects that it identifies and considers alternatives to the proposed project.

CEQA timelines. Under CEQA, state and local agencies must complete and adopt a ND in 180 days, and certify an EIR within a year. If there is a compelling circumstance to extend this timeline, agencies may take longer, but only if the project applicant consents. After the environmental review is completed, the case may be subject to litigation. Judicial Council asserts that it takes over six months just for a CEQA case to get a hearing, let alone reach a decision. To help speed CEQA cases through the court system, current law provides several measures to prioritize CEQA cases and speed up judicial review, including:

a) The Superior Court and the Court of Appeal must give CEQA lawsuits preference over all other civil actions;

b) If feasible, the Court of Appeal must hear a CEQA appeal within 1 year of filing;

c) Discovery is generally not allowed, as CEQA cases are generally restricted to review of the record; and

d) Counties with a population of over 200,000 must designate one or more judges to develop expertise on CEQA and hear CEQA cases.

Judicial and administrative streamlining. The Legislature has developed streamlining measures to speed CEQA lawsuits against specified projects through the courts. In current law, CEQA streamlining entails both judicial and administrative streamlining. Judicial streamlining requires that a CEQA lawsuit be heard in 270 days, including all appeals, as feasible. Administrative streamlining requires projects to prepare the administrative record, the comprehensive document at the heart of a CEQA case, at the same time as the environmental review documents are prepared. Preparing these documents concurrently, instead of sequentially, saves time if there is a lawsuit. These streamlining measures shorten what is potentially the lengthiest portion of the CEQA process—litigation—while retaining the full environmental review and public engagement offered under CEQA.

In 2011, the Legislature passed the first CEQA streamlining certification program with the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act (Leadership Act), which created CEQA streamlining for residential, retail,

commercial, sports, and recreational use projects that were certified as Environmental Leadership Development Projects (ELDP) by the Governor (AB 900, Buchanan, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2011). The ELDP program was further extended and modified in 2021 with (SB 7, Atkins, Chapter 19, Statutes of 2021).

In 2023, The Legislature expanded these same streamlining provisions for certain energy, transportation, and water infrastructure projects (SB 149, Caballero, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023).

The specific criteria that projects must meet to be eligible for CEQA streamlining varies by project and process, but all are intended to ensure that projects meet high environmental and labor standards. In current law environmental criteria for streamlining includes requirements such as achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification and being greenhouse gas neutral. SB 149 (Caballero, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023) also includes a specific equity provision which requires that projects both minimize significant environmental impacts in disadvantaged communities and take mitigation measures that directly benefit the affected community. In offering CEQA streamlining for projects that meet these high standards, California has been able to promote projects that align with the State's environmental, climate, and labor goals.

Increasing Need for Fire Stations. According to this bill's sponsors, California fire agencies have seen significantly increased call volume and population growth, but no corresponding expansion of fire stations in those communities. For example, a recent analysis by the International Association of Fire Fighters found that the Los Angeles Fire Department is in need of 62 new fire stations and 4,000 additional firefighters to meet the needs of the community. National rates suggest most cities are operating at 1.54 to 1.81 firefighters per 1,000 residents. But that is not the trend everywhere, a prominent example of this is the city of Los Angeles, which is operating at .88 firefighters per 1000 residents. In 1960, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) had 112 fire stations that serviced 2.5 million residents; they now only have 106 stations servicing 3.9 million residents.

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "Across our state, localities struggle to construct new fire stations due to rising costs, procedural delays, and, at times, CEQA litigation. Los Angeles is a prime example of what could happen across this state. In The Tiara Group vs. City of Los Angeles, a group of residents successfully

delayed a fire station from being built for over 2 years—placing lives on the line and wasting nearly $2 million of valuable taxpayer dollars. With the International Association of Fire Fighters determining that LAFD needs 62 new Fire Stations and 4,000 additional Firefighters, and the last attempted fire station built in LAFD being sued twice under frivolous lawsuits, now is the time to ensure our fire departments across the state have the streamlined process they need to bolster fire infrastructure."

Streamlining CEQA for Fire Stations. According to CEQAnet, the State's database of CEQA documents, the vast majority of fire stations are subject to CEQA exemptions or short environmental review through an ND/MND. However, some fire stations are subject to full EIRs. Occasionally, fire stations are subject to lawsuits under CEQA. According to the author's office, LAFD station 39 in Van Nuys was subject to court challenge over CEQA, delaying the project over three years and costing the City more than $1.9 million.

This bill addresses the issue directly by authorizing CEQA judicial streamlining for fire stations through the existing ELDP program. This retains important environmental review, public transparency, and mitigation measures required under CEQA while also ensuring that essential fire station projects are not delayed in lengthy lawsuits.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2231 (Ahrens, 2026) would create expedited administrative and judicial review procedures under the CEQA for "environmental leadership hospital campus projects" in the cities of Emeryville and Santa Clara, requiring the courts to resolve lawsuits within 270 days, to the extent feasible.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations committee:

- This bill could result in potential cost pressure (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown amount to the courts to process and hear challenges to environmental reviews for essential local fire station projects on an expedited timeline. Expedited cases generally create costs and staffing pressures on the courts, as each review typically requires a judicial officer, research attorneys, and staff. Cost pressures would likely be offset by the higher filing fee. Under existing rules of court (that Judicial Council may amend to reference the

specific projects in this bill), these reviews would be subject to a $180,000 filing fee.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Professional Firefighters
Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego
State Building and Construction Trades Council
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

Associated General Contractors, California Chapters
Judicial Council of California
Western Electrical Contractors Association

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-1, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Boerner, Dixon, Johnson, Celeste Rodriguez, Tangipa

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 14:03:26

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2167
Author: Macedo (R)
Amended: 6/11/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/24/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Property tax: documentary transfer tax: exemptions: nonprofit corporations chartered under tribal or federal law

SOURCE: Mooretown Rancheria

DIGEST: This bill clarifies that nonprofit tribal corporations and wholly owned tribal entities are eligible for the welfare exemption from property tax and exemption from Documentary Transfer Tax for tribal land return transactions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Vests Congress with the authority to engage in relations with Indian tribes, sovereign nations that existed long before the founding of the Republic (United States Constitution, Article One, Section Eight).

2) Provides that all property is taxable unless explicitly exempted by the Constitution or federal law (California Constitution, Article XIII, Section One.)

3) Limits the maximum amount of any *ad valorem* tax on real property at 1% of full cash value, plus any locally-authorized bonded indebtedness, and caps a

property's annual inflationary increase in taxable value to 2%. Provides that assessors reappraise property whenever it is purchased, newly constructed, or when ownership changes (California Constitution, Article XIIIA, as added by Proposition 13, 1978).

4) Sets, generally, a property's value as its sales price when purchased or, when there is no sales price, at its fair market value when ownership changes.

5) Allows the Legislature to exempt property used exclusively for charitable purposes, so long as it is owned by non-profit corporations or other entities organized and operated for charitable purposes, such as universities, hospitals, and libraries, commonly known as the "welfare exemption" (California Constitution, Article XIII, Section Four).

6) Applies the welfare exemption to property used exclusively for the preservation of native plants and animals, biotic communities, geological or geographical formations of scientific or educational interest, or open-space lands used solely for recreation and for the enjoyment of scenic beauty. The land must be open to the public subject to reasonable restrictions, and the exemption cannot apply to property that is reserved for future development. In 2022, the Legislature extended the exemption until the 2027 lien date (SB 825, Committee on Governance & Finance, Chapter 433, Statutes of 2022).

7) Enacts the Documentary Transfer Tax Act, which allows counties to levy a tax upon the recording of documents that transfer interests in real property. All 58 counties impose a documentary transfer tax (DTT), which is levied at a rate of 55 cents per $500 (or 0.11%) of the value of the real property or interest being transferred.

8) Under the Act, permits a city within a county that has adopted a DTT to impose a DTT at one-half of the county rate, where the amount of tax paid to a city is a credit against the amount of the tax owed to a county. More than 450 cities levy a DTT pursuant to the Act, including some charter cities, which can apply the tax at rates that exceed the Act's limits on the DTT.

9) Directs county recorders to administer documentary transfer taxes, and prohibits a recorder from recording a document subject to the DTT unless the tax is paid at the time of recording.

10) Exempts tribal land return transactions, as defined, from the documentary tax, and enacts a property tax exemption parallel to the current exemption for open space lands for properties owned and operated by a federally recognized Indian

tribe, or its wholly owned subsidiary (AB 1485, Macedo, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2026).

11) Defines "tribal land return transactions" as a land return acquisition that transfers ownership of land to a federally recognized Indian tribe, or a wholly owned subsidiary of a federally recognized Indian tribe in fee simple, and that includes restrictive covenants that prohibit that tribe from engaging in commercial activities on the land, instead restricting its uses to cultural, educational, recreational, or conservation purposes.

This bill:

1) Adds the following entities as eligible property owners to apply AB 1485's documentary transfer tax and property tax exemptions:

   a) Nonprofit corporations chartered by a federally recognized tribe pursuant to tribal law,

   b) Nonprofit corporations chartered under Section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act, and

   c) Wholly owned tribal entities.

2) Defines "wholly owned tribal entity," as an entity wholly owned by one or more Indian tribal governments, as that term is defined in Section 7701(a)(40) Title 26 of the United States Code, that is organized or incorporated under the law of the tribe or tribes that own the entity and authorized by all of the other owning tribes.

3) Deletes references to "subsidiary."

4) Makes a conforming change to AB 1485's legislative findings and declarations to comply with Section 41 of the Revenue & Taxation Code.

Background

Tribal corporations. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 has long provided a framework for tribes to create corporations that facilitate economic development while safeguarding their sovereignty and assets. Tribal nations often create separate corporations or subsidiaries for specific purposes, including owning land not held in trust by the federal government. Tribes state that forming corporations under their own law is an exercise of their inherent sovereign authority to generate governmental revenue, self-govern the use of that revenue according to their own

laws, and self-determine the use of that revenue for their citizenry. Tribes add that incorporating corporations under Tribal law enables Tribes to create entities that meet their emerging revenue opportunities, establish guidelines for the operation of these entities that are culturally appropriate and protect Tribal assets, and dissolve them when they are no longer needed.

Last December, the Internal Revenue Service issued new regulations that included a new rule providing that entities wholly owned by Tribes and organized, incorporated, or authorized under the laws of the Tribes that own them generally are not recognized as separate entities for federal tax purposes. The regulations also apply to entities wholly owned by one or more Indian Tribal governments, and to entities other than corporations, such as Limited Liability Companies.

AB 1485 allowed wholly-owned subsidiaries of tribes to qualify for the measure's welfare exemption from property tax as well as its DTT exemption. However, tribes can differ in the types of entities they create, and the term "wholly owned subsidiary" may be interpreted differently from tribe to tribe. Additionally, it's unclear whether a non-profit land trust created by several tribes would qualify as a "wholly owned subsidiary" of a tribe.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- This bill would likely reduce local property tax revenues relative to current law. Although the Board of Equalization (BOE) estimates no revenue impact, the actual fiscal effect is unknown because it is unclear how many nonprofit corporations chartered under tribal law currently own, or may in the future acquire, property that would become eligible for the exemption.

- Reductions in local property tax revenues, in turn, can increase General Fund Proposition 98 spending by up to roughly 50 percent (the exact amount depends on the specific amount of the annual Proposition 98 guarantee, which in turns depends upon a variety of economic, demographic and budgetary factors).

- BOE would incur minor and absorbable costs as a result of the bill.

- By imposing specified duties on local officials, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a

higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but likely minor.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Mooretown Rancheria (source)
California Baptist Capitol Ministry
California Nations Indian Gaming Association
Elk Valley Rancheria
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Wilton Rancheria
Yurok Tribe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "California has taken an important step toward supporting tribal land return transactions and the preservation of natural resources and open-space lands under current law. AB 2167 is a narrow follow-up measure to ensure that framework works as intended. Some tribes hold land through corporations chartered under tribal law. Those entities are legitimate arms of tribal self-governance, but current statutory language does not clearly state them in the relevant tax provisions. As a result, similarly situated tribal land return transactions may be treated differently based solely on how a tribe structures its ownership. AB 2167 provides a simple fix by expressly including corporations chartered under tribal law in the applicable welfare exemption and documentary transfer tax provisions. This bill promotes parity, respects tribal governance structures, and preserves the intent of existing law."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers,

Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Lee, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Wilson

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8/14/26 16:20:10

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2179
Author: Patel (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/7/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Workplace violence: restraining orders

SOURCE: City of Carlsbad
San Diego County District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: This bill requires a court, beginning January 1, 2028, to permit electronic filings and remote appearances in proceedings for a workplace violence restraining order, and requires the Judicial Council of California to develop the necessary forms and rules to implement those requirements.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 add additional language to this bill's contingent enactment language to conform to recent amendments to AB 1961 (Ahrens, 2026).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Permits an employer or collective bargaining unit of an employee who has suffered harassment, unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence from any individual, that can reasonably be construed to be carried out or to have

been carried out at the workplace, to seek a temporary restraining order (TRO) or order after hearing on behalf of the employee and, at the discretion of the court, any number of other employees at the workplace and, if appropriate, other employees at other workplaces of the employer.

a) A TRO or order after hearing may not be issued to prohibit speech or other activities that are constitutionally protected or otherwise protected by law.

b) The TRO or order after hearing may, on a showing of good cause, include other named family or household members, or other persons employed at the employee's workplace or workplaces. (Code of Civil Procedure [Code Civ. Proc.], § 527.8(a), (c), (d).)

2) Requires an employer or collective bargaining representative, prior to filing a petition for an order under 1), to provide the employee who has suffered harassment, unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence an opportunity to decline to be named in the TRO; an employee's request not to be named does not prohibit an employer or representative from seeking a TRO on behalf of other employees at the workplace or, if appropriate, at another of the employer's workplaces. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8(e).)

3) Permits a petitioner to obtain a TRO under 1) if the petitioner files a declaration that establishes, to the satisfaction of the court, one of the following:

a) Reasonable proof that an employee has suffered unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence by the respondent, and that great or irreparable harm would result to an employee.

b) Clear and convincing evidence that: (1) the employee has suffered harassment by the respondent; (2) that great or irreparable harm would result to an employee; (3) that the course of conduct at issue serves no legitimate purpose; and (4) that the issuance of the order is not prohibited by 1)(a). (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8(f).)

4) Requires a request for a TRO under 2) to be granted or denied on the same day that the petition is submitted to the court, unless the petition is filed too late to permit effective review, in which case the order shall be granted or denied on the next day of judicial business in sufficient time for the order to be filed that day with the clerk of the court. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8(g).)

5) Requires the respondent to be personally served with a copy of the petition, TRO, if any, and notice of hearing on the petition, at least five days before the hearing in 6), below. If, however, the respondent has not been served

personally but has received actual notice of the existence and substance of the order through personal appearance, no additional proof of service is required. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8(n), (r).)

6) Provides that a TRO granted under 1) shall remain in effect, at the court's discretion, for a period not to exceed 21 days, and the court must hold a hearing on the petition before the expiration of the TRO.

   a) The court may, for good cause, extend the time for hearing to 25 days.

   b) The respondent may file a response to the petition prior to the hearing.

   c) The respondent is entitled, as a matter of course, to one continuance, for a reasonable period, to respond to the petition.

   d) Either party may request a continuance of the hearing, which the court shall grant on a showing of good cause; the TRO shall be extended for the duration of the continuance.

   e) At the hearing, the judge shall receive any testimony that is relevant and may make an independent inquiry. (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8(h)-(k), (p), (q).)

7) Requires the court, if the hearing under 6) establishes clear and convincing evidence that the respondent engaged in harassment, engaged in unlawful violence, or made a credible threat of violence, to issue an order prohibiting further harassment, unlawful violence, or threats of violence.

   a) The order may have a duration of not more than three years, subject to termination or modification by the court either on written stipulation or on the motion of a party.

   b) The order may be renewed for a duration of not more than three years, without a showing of further harassment, unlawful, or credible threats of violence since the issuance of the order. (Code Civ. Proc., § 528.7(k), (*l*).)

8) Prohibits the subject of a protective order issued under 2) from owning, possessing, purchasing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive a firearm or ammunition while the order is in effect, as specified. (Code Civ. Proc., § 528.7(t).)

9) Provides that there is no filing fee for a petition filed under 2). (Code Civ. Proc., § 527.8(x).)

This bill:

1) Permits, commencing January 1, 2028, a party or witness to appear remotely at a hearing on a petition for a workplace violence restraining order.

   a) A court may not charge a fee for a party to appear remotely at the hearing.

   b) The superior court of each county shall develop local rules and instructions for such remote appearances, which must be posted on the court's website.

2) Requires a court, commencing January 1, 2028, to permit a petition for a workplace violence restraining order or other related filings to be submitted electronically.

   a) The court shall, based on the time of receipt, act on the filings consistent with the existing timeframe for granting a TRO.

   b) The request for order, notice of the court date, copies of the request, and the TRO, if granted, shall be provided electronically to the petitioner who electronically filed the petition, unless the petitioner notes, at the time of filing, that they will obtain physical copies of those documents from the court.

3) Requires the Judicial Council of California, on or before January 1, 2028, to develop the necessary forms and rules to implement 1) and 2).

4) Makes nonsubstantive conforming changes.

5) Incorporates chaptering-out language to avoid a conflict with AB 1961 (Ahrens, 2026).

Comments

Current law authorizes an employer or collective bargaining representative to petition for a civil restraining order from a court for an employee who has suffered harassment, violence, or a credible threat of violence at the workplace. The court can issue a TRO on an ex parte basis, and then may enter a restraining order after the respondent has been given notice and an opportunity to be heard. To enter a restraining order after hearing, the court must find, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent engaged in harassment or unlawful violence, or made credible threats of violence; upon making this finding, the court has significant discretion to apply the order broadly, including to cover other employees at the same workplace or workplaces as the affected employee, and family members of

the threatened employees. The initial order can last for up to three years, and can be renewed for up to three additional years.

This bill requires a court, beginning January 1, 2028, to permit electronic filings and remote appearances in proceedings for a workplace violence restraining order, and requires the Judicial Council of California to develop the necessary forms and rules to implement those requirements on or before that date. These measures bring the workplace violence restraining order statute into conformity with other civil protective order regimes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

City of Carlsbad (co-source)
San Diego County District Attorney's Office (co-source)
California District Attorneys Association
California Hospital Association
California State Association of Counties
California State University
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
City of San Marcos

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the City of Carlsbad:

> California law currently allows employers (and, in certain cases, authorized collective bargaining representatives) to seek workplace violence restraining orders when an employee has suffered unlawful violence, harassment, or a credible threat of violence that could reasonably be carried out at the workplace. However, the process can still require in-person participation and paper-based steps that create unnecessary barriers — especially for employees and witnesses who may fear retaliation, lack transportation, cannot easily take time off work, or face safety concerns traveling to and from court.
>
> AB 2179 would permit any party or witness in a workplace violence restraining order proceeding to appear remotely at the hearing. It would also ensure courts do not charge a fee for participating remotely and would require courts to allow

electronic submission of filings related to these protective orders, improving timely access to the court process.

AB 2179 supports workplace safety by making restraining order proceedings more accessible and safer to navigate. By reducing practical barriers to participation, the bill can help ensure the court receives the information it needs while minimizing disruption to work and reducing safety risks for parties and witnesses.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/7/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Hart, Hoover, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis, Wicks

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/24/26 14:08:10

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2200
Author: Hart (D)
Amended: 4/13/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 17-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Caballero, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Strickland, Wahab

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Controlled environment horticulture space: thermal curtains

SOURCE: Windset Farms

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) to adopt a standard developed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to allow certain indoor agriculture buildings and air-conditioned greenhouses to use alternative technologies instead of using double-paned glass windows.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CEC's authority to create regulations for building efficiency standards. Existing law requires the CEC to create cost-effective regulations for lighting, insulation, climate control systems, and other building design and construction standards that increase energy and water efficiency for new residential and new nonresidential buildings. Local governments may not issue

permits for construction and installation projects that fail to comply with the CEC's certified efficiency standards. (Public Resources Code §25402)

2) Requires the CEC's building water and energy efficiency standards to be cost effective for the economic life of the building when compared to historic practice. When determining a standard's cost effectiveness, the CEC must consider the value of the water or energy saved, impact on product performance for consumers, and the life-cycle cost of the standard. Existing law also requires the CEC to consider a standard's impact on housing costs, the total statewide costs and benefits of the standard over its lifetime, the economic impact on California businesses, and alternative approaches and costs. (Public Resources Code §25402)

This bill:

1) Defines a "controlled environment horticulture space" as a building space dedicated to plant production using environmental controls, including electric lighting, irrigation, heating, cooling, or dehumidification.

2) Requires the CBSC to adopt standards developed by the CEC in the next triennial building code requirements, allowing controlled environment horticulture (CEH) spaces or conditioned greenhouses to use alternative technologies, such as thermal curtains, thermal screens, shade cloths, or equivalent technologies, in lieu of the requirements for double-paned glass windows.

3) Specifies that a CEH space that uses single-paned glass windows and either thermal curtains, thermal screens, shade cloths, or equivalent technologies shall be considered compliant under the energy code if the CEC finds that these technologies are at least as efficient as technologies used under existing regulations.

Background

CEC's Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Existing law establishes the CEC's authority to adopt cost-effective building and appliance standards to promote the conservation of energy and water. Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations includes the CEC's appliance standards. Title 24 includes the CEC's building energy efficiency standards. While the CEC develops the building energy efficiency standards, the CBSC is responsible for adopting all building standards,

including Title 24 energy efficiency standards. Local governments are responsible for enforcing building standards through building inspections. Building energy efficiency standards are developed and adopted for a three-year period and apply at the time of construction. While some standards are mandatory, others are less proscriptive.

Bill primarily addresses energy code compliance needs for one farm but may benefit others. This bill addresses barriers that greenhouse farms may face when developing new facilities that use certain technologies that do not currently comply with existing energy code for CEH spaces. As part of the 2022 edition of the building energy efficiency standards, the CEC adopted a definition of a CEH space, which applies to agricultural productions that occur indoors, including in greenhouses. Among other requirements, the CEC's efficiency standards for CEH spaces specified that the building envelope of an air-conditioned CEH must be either 1) an opaque wall or roof or 2) a double-glazed window that uses air or gas as insulation between the panels. These existing requirements do not enable a greenhouse farm that uses other technologies, including single paned windows paired with thermal screens or more advanced temperature and environmental control systems to use these alternative technologies to meet energy code requirements.

Energy code requirements are prospective and do not apply retroactively to existing facilities; as a result, some farms that pre-date the CEC's rules for CEH spaces are already operating greenhouses that do not use double-paned windows for insulation. While the CEC's energy code requirements do not impact these existing structures, they can prevent farms that use alternative technologies as part of their operations from expanding or building new facilities that also match their existing production processes.

At least one in-state agricultural producer, Windset Farms, uses alternative insulation technologies as part of its greenhouse vegetable farming. Windset Farms is based in Santa Maria, California, and operates the largest greenhouse vegetable farm in the state. Windset Farms greenhouses currently use single-paned glass with retractable thermal curtains along with environmental control systems developed by KUBO, a Netherlands-based manufacturer of advanced technology greenhouses. Windset established much of its existing agricultural production prior to the CEC's adoption of CEH energy code requirements. However, the company in the process of expanding its greenhouses to include an additional 97 acres of greenhouse space adjacent to its existing facilities. Existing CEC standards for CEH spaces would limit Windset's ability to use its existing KUBO-designed

advanced greenhouses for its expansion. This bill would enable Windset to continue using its existing greenhouse technology as part of its expansion and would enable other farms to establish new greenhouses using similar alternative climate and insulation technologies.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 48 (Becker, Chapter 378, Statutes of 2023) required the CEC, along with other agencies, to develop a state strategy to achieve state goals for energy and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from existing buildings, as specified.

SB 795 (Stern, 2023) would have required the CEC to develop and implement an electronic statewide heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment sales registry and compliance tracking system. It also would have required the CEC to develop an electronic statewide compliance documentation data repository for HVAC equipment and lighting controls. The bill was held by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1477 (Stern, Chapter 378, Statutes of 2018) required the CEC to develop a statewide market transformation initiative to transform the state's market for low-emission space and water heating equipment for new and existing residential and nonresidential buildings and to develop an incentive program to fund near-zero emission technology for new residential and commercial buildings.

AB 3232 (Friedman, Chapter 373, Statutes of 2018) required the CEC to assess the potential for the state to achieve the goal of reducing the emissions of GHGs by the state's residential and commercial building stock by at least 40% below 1990 levels by January 1, 2030.

AB 802 (Williams, Chapter 590, Statutes of 2015), among its provisions, established the energy use "benchmarking" and disclosure program at the CEC for existing buildings.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

Windset Farms (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

> AB 2200 will give food producers flexibility in meeting energy efficiency standards in ways that are tailored to local conditions and specific crop needs, helping keep costs down and produce more affordable. Current energy regulations require double-paned windows for new agricultural greenhouses to improve energy efficiency. Many greenhouse systems, however, rely on the temperate climate and extensive sunlight found in much of California. Single-paned windows with curtain systems provide the necessary sunlight into these greenhouses and give growers the ability to adjust to changing conditions for optimal crop growth and yield. AB 2200 helps support innovative greenhouses, bolster crop production, and keep more farms here in California by creating a narrow exemption for greenhouses that utilize single-paned windows.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Harabedian, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Sarah Smith / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/5/26 15:04:32

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2204
Author: Gabriel (D) and Bryan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/24/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Prisons: organized sports programming

SOURCE: Anti-Recidivism Coalition

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to establish a policy on organized sports programming at facilities operated by the department.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/24/26 clarify that moneys deposited into the Second Chance Sports Fund shall be available upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget, rather than requiring approval by the Government Operations Agency; and add a sunset date applying to the bill's provisions of January 1, 2036.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26:

- Extend the deadline by which CDCR must formalize a policy on organized sports programming from July 1, 2027 to January 1, 2028;
- Require that in developing the policy, CDCR must consider additional factors, including geographic, climate, and infrastructure differences across department facilities that may affect equitable access to organized sports programming and

how to maximize access to sports programming using existing recreational spaces and infrastructure;
- Clarify that monies deposited into the Second Chance sports Fund are available upon appropriation;
- Clarify that the Controller, rather than the Treasurer, must annually report on the amount deposited in the fund;
- Extend the deadline for the first report from the Controller to January 1, 2029;
- Delete the sunset date that applies to the provisions of the bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the position of Secretary of CDCR and vests in that position responsibility for the care, custody, treatment, training, discipline, and employment of persons confined in state prisons. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 5054.)

2) Authorizes CDCR to adopt regulations as necessary to implement the department's administrative duties. (Pen. Code, § 5058.)

3) Provides that any amendments to existing regulations and any future regulations adopted by CDCR that may impact visitation of incarcerated persons shall do all of the following:

   a) Recognize and consider the value of visiting as a means to improve the safety of prisons for both staff and incarcerated persons;
   b) Recognize and consider the important role of incarcerated person visitation in establishing and maintaining a meaningful connection with family and community; and
   c) Recognize and consider the important role of incarcerated person visitation in preparing an incarcerated person for successful release and rehabilitation. (Pen. Code, § 6400, subds. (a)-(c).)

4) Provides that the essential purpose of incarceration is rehabilitation and successful community reintegration, which should be achieved through education, treatment, and active participation in rehabilitative and restorative justice programs. (Pen. Code, § 1170.)

5) Requires CDCR to develop and implement policies for contraband interdiction at institutional entry points, including standardized screening procedures

applicable to all individuals entering facilities, such as visitors, staff, volunteers, and contract employees. (Pen. Code, § 6402.)

6) Establishes the Inmate Welfare Fund, which authorizes CDCR to fund programs for the benefit of incarcerated persons, including recreational and physical education activities, hobby programs, and other leisure-time services. (Pen. Code, § 5006.)

7) Requires CDCR to provide incarcerated persons with access to recreational and physical education programs under safe and secure conditions, consistent with custodial classification and institutional operations. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220.)

8) Permits CDCR to allow competitions between outside public teams and teams of incarcerated individuals if competitions take place within the facility and under the direct supervision of staff. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220, subd. (e).)

9) Provides that incarcerated persons may voluntarily participate in athletic activities, contests, and games only if those activities are specifically authorized by the institution head or their designee. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220, subd. (f).)

10) Authorizes CDCR to regulate recreational programming, including restricting activities that present safety risks and requiring supervision and medical clearance for certain activities. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220.1.)

11) Authorizes CDCR to regulate and control access to its institutions through a visitor approval process, including establishing conditions necessary to ensure institutional safety and security. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3170.)

This bill:

1) Establishes a policy in California to recognize participation in organized sports programming in state prisons as a form of rehabilitation.

2) Requires CDCR to adopt a department-wide policy on organized sports programming to be applied to all CDCR facilities by July 1, 2027.

3) Requires CDCR to consult with a wide range of stakeholders when creating the policy, including researchers and experts in sports and rehabilitation, criminal

justice reform organizations, professional and semi-professional sports teams and leagues, CDCR staff, and organizations representing incarcerated persons and their families.

4) Requires CDCR to consider the following topics when adopting the policy:

   a) The safety of CDCR staff, incarcerated persons, and other participants;
   b) The appropriate use of CDCR resources and facilities by incarcerated persons;
   c) Eligibility requirements for participation; and
   d) Broader impacts to public safety.

5) Permits CDCR to solicit proposals, accept unsolicited proposals, negotiate, and enter into agreements with public and private entities, including professional sports teams, the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and private universities for the purpose of expanding access to organized sports programming at CDCR facilities.

6) Establishes the Second Chance Sports Fund within the State Treasury and requires:

   a) Funds deposited into the fund to be available, upon appropriation and approval of the Government Operations Agency, to support the expansion of organized sports programming at facilities operated by CDCR;
   b) The Government Operations Agency to seek advisement from the Legislature and CDCR on how to prioritize the use of the funds, and to approve the uses of the moneys;
   c) The fund to receive money from any source, including private donations;
   d) The funds to supplement, not replace, existing funding for recreational sports programming at CDCR; and
   e) No more than 5 percent of the funds to be used for administrative purposes.

7) Requires the State Treasurer to provide a report to the Legislature on the amounts deposited into the fund before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.

8) States that the provisions of this bill will remain operative until January 1, 2030, or until the funds appropriated pursuant to this bill are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

9) Includes legislative findings and declarations.

Background

Although there is limited research on the positive impact of sports programming, there are some studies that suggest structured sports programming in correctional settings may support improvements in institutional behavior, mental health, and post-release outcomes for incarcerated individuals. For example, the Twinning Project, a partnership between correctional systems and professional soccer clubs in England and Wales, was recently evaluated in collaboration with researchers at the University of Oxford. The evaluation found that participation in their soccer-based programming was associated with a significant reduction in disciplinary infractions, as well as increased social bonding and optimism regarding post-release outcomes.

More broadly, a systematic review and meta-analysis of sports-based interventions found that participation in such programs was associated with moderate improvements across a range of outcomes, including recidivism, anger control, substance use, and attitudes toward offending. Additional research suggests that sports participation may contribute to improved mental health outcomes among incarcerated individuals, including reduced stress, improved emotional regulation, and increased social connection.

Existing regulations already provide for rehabilitative programming, including recreational and physical activities. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220.) CDCR currently states on its website that "Physical Education and Recreation programs are provided at each institution." Additionally, existing regulations provide that incarcerated persons may participate in athletic activities, contests, and games, even with outside organizations, so long as the program is authorized by institutional leadership. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220, subd. (f).) CDCR also permits access to approved visitors and outside organizations, including for the provision of recreational programs and activities, subject to institutional security requirements. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 3220, subd. (e).)

This bill seeks to expand access to organized sports programming in state prisons by directing CDCR to develop a department-wide policy, facilitate partnerships with outside organizations, and establish a fund to support such programming. The bill is intended to increase opportunities for incarcerated persons to participate in structured athletic activities through collaboration with public and private entities, including colleges, universities, and professional sports teams. Specifically, the bill is intended to create more opportunities for incarcerated individuals to participate

in programs like the San Quentin Giants, where outside organizations visit the prisons for sports programming.

The primary effect of this bill is to require CDCR to formalize and standardize a policy on organized sports programming and to consult with specified stakeholders in doing so. While the bill encourages expanded collaboration with outside entities and establishes a funding mechanism to support such efforts, it does not mandate that CDCR enter into specific partnerships, implement particular programs, or ensure that organized sports involving outside participants are available at a specific number of facilities.

Therefore, while the bill may provide additional structure, guidance, and potential funding opportunities for organized sports programming, its practical impact will largely depend on how CDCR exercises its existing discretion to implement and expand existing recreational sports programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The Senate Appropriations Committee writes:

> Moderate to significant costs to CDCR to establish the Second Chance Sports Act (General Fund). Unknown annual costs to CDCR and the Gov Ops Agency to establish and operate organized sports programming (private).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Anti-recidivism Coalition (source)
California Democratic Party
California Police Chiefs Association
California Public Defenders Association
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty
San Quentin Skunkworks
Smart Justice California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

Smart Justice California writes:

> AB 2204 would direct the California Department of Corrections ("CDCR") to establish a policy on organized sports, in collaboration with researchers, nonprofits, athletic organizations, and correctional line staff. The legislation would allow CDCR to collaborate with public and private entities, such as colleges and universities or professional sports teams, to implement this sports policy. Additionally, the legislation would establish a state fund to support the expansion of rehabilitative sports programs. The fund would be able to receive donations from a variety of sources, including private philanthropy, further facilitating public-private partnerships like those at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center.
>
> By providing additional support, investment, and collaboration, AB 2204 will provide meaningful opportunities for incarcerated people to participate in sports. Not only will this improve physical and mental health at CDCR facilities, but it will also help improve outcomes for our state's incarcerated population, helping to make California a safer place.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /916-651-4118
8/25/26 10:43:48

****** END ******

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(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2207
Author: Hadwick (R)
Amended: 8/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Hunting tags: transfer: youth program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Fish and Game Commission to establish a hunting tag transfer program for pronghorn antelope, elk, deer, bear, or bighorn sheep tags from a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian to a youth, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Fish and Game Commission (commission) and the department in the California Natural Resources Agency.

2) Requires the commission to determine the form of all licenses, permits, tags, reservations, and other entitlements issued pursuant to the Fish and Game Code, and the method of carrying and displaying all licenses, and requires the department to prepare and issue all licenses, permits, tags, reservations, and other entitlements, as provided. Requires both the commission and the department to establish fees in an amount sufficient to recover all reasonable administrative and implementation costs of the department and commission relating to the program for which the fee is paid. (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §1050)

3) Declares the legislative intent that the costs of hunting and sport fishing programs shall be provided out of hunting and sport fishing revenues and reimbursements and federal funds received for hunting and sport fishing programs, and other funds appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose, as specified. (FGC §711)

4) Authorizes the commission to set regulations for and authorizes a licensed hunter to obtain a tag to take pronghorn antelope, elk, deer, bear, and bighorn sheep, as specified. (FGC §§331, 332, 4332, 4751, 4902)

5) Requires a resident or nonresident to be issued a hunting license upon payment of a specified fee, as provided. (FGC §3031)

6) Creates the Big Game Management Account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund; requires fees from the sale of antelope, elk, deer, bear, and sheep tags, and wild pig validations to be deposited in the Big Game Management Account; and requires the collected fees to be used, upon appropriation, to benefit applicable species and public hunting programs, among other related uses. (FGC §3953)

7) Makes it unlawful to:

   a) Take or possess a bird, mammal, fish, reptile, or amphibian except as provided by the Fish and Game Code or applicable regulations, as specified. (FGC §§2000, 2002)

   b) Transfer licenses, tags, validations, permits, applications, or reservations to another person. (FGC §1052)

   c) Use or possess any license, tag, validation, permit, application, or reservation not lawfully issued to the user. (FGC §1052)

   d) Hunt any game bird or mammal without having the required licenses, tags, and/or stamps in possession. (FGC §1054.2)

This bill:

1) Requires the commission to establish a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag subject to the following conditions:

   a) Requires the transferor to transfer a tag issued for pronghorn antelope, elk, deer, bear, or bighorn sheep, as provided.

b) Requires the transferor to be the parent, legal guardian, or grandparent of the person to whom the tag is transferred.

c) Requires the transferee to be 17 years of age or younger, in possession of a valid hunting license, and is otherwise eligible to obtain the applicable tag on the date of the transfer.

d) Requires the transferee to be accompanied during the take authorized by the tag by their parent, legal guardian, or grandparent, or any combination of those persons.

e) Requires that a transferee not lose any preference points for the particular species as a result of the transfer of the tag if the tag was obtained through a modified-preference point drawing, as provided.

f) Authorizes the transferor to transfer a tag for a particular species that may be drawn only once. Requires the ineligibility to draw another tag for that species to apply to the transferor, not the transferee.

2) Requires the department to collect a fee from the transferor to cover the reasonable cost of transferring a tag and requires the department to deposit the revenues into the Big Game Management Account, as provided.

3) Requires the commission to adopt regulations to implement the hunting tag transfer program described in 1) and 2) above.

4) Sunsets the tag transfer program on January 1, 2033, as provided.

[NOTE: For additional information regarding this bill, see the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee's analysis.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- One-time costs below $150,000 (General Fund) for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to develop and implement a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag issued for the take of specified species to their child or grandchild, subject to specified conditions.

- Potential increased fee revenues of an unknown amount not to exceed CDFW costs for administration (Big Game Management Account).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association
California Deer Association
California Houndsmen for Conservation
California Rifle & Pistol Association
County of Amador
County of Shasta
HOWL for Wildlife
Mzuri Safari Club
National Wild Turkey Federation – California State Chapter
Safari Club International – California Coalition
Safari Club International – Sacramento Chapter
Safari Club International – San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
San Diego County Wildlife Federation
Suisun Resource Conservation District
The Black Brant Group
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association
Wild Sheep Foundation – California Chapter

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Assembly Bill 2207 focuses on improving access to hunting opportunities for families […]. This bill is about making sure the traditions of hunting do not fade away, especially for the next generation. If an adult in the family draws a tag but can't use it, AB 2207 would allow them to pass that opportunity down to a young hunter in the same hunt—so that chance to learn and participate does not go to waste. This bill would make it easier for young hunters to get out in the field with their dad or grandpa—learning the skills, the respect for the land, and the stories that come with it. This bill helps keep California's hunting heritage alive."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz,

Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/18/26 13:00:54

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2212
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Seyarto, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies: student training

SOURCE: Survivors + Allies

DIGEST: This bill expands the definition of sexual harassment by adding that it includes technology-facilitated sexual harassment, stalking, and sextortion. This bill expands the definition of sexual exploitation by adding that it includes the creation, generation, or distribution of digitized sexually explicit materials without the written consent of the depicted individual or individuals of each such act.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 (1) delay implementation of the provisions of this bill to August 1, 2027; (2) remove definitions for "cyber sexual bullying",

"cyber stalking", "doxing", "electronic act", and "written consent"; (3) add a definition for "stalking" consistent with federal law; (4) clarify the definition of "sexual exploitation"; (5) add "stalking" and "sextortion" to the definition of "sexual harassment"; and (6) other technical and clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes Title IX, providing that, in part, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." (United States Code (USC) Title 20, Chapter 38, § 1681 (commonly known as Title IX))

2) Defines stalking as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that could cause a reasonable person to: a) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or b) suffer substantial emotional distress. (USC Title 34, Chapter 121, § 12291)

3) Defines sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination and as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies at least one of the following:

   a) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee of the postsecondary education institution conditions aid, benefit, or services to a postsecondary education institution's education program or activity on the individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

   b) *Hostile environment harassment.* Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity.

   c) *Specific offenses.* Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, as defined in the USC. (Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Part 106, Subpart A, § 106.2)

Existing state law:

1) Defines the following terms:

a) "Affirmative consent" as affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. (Education Code (EC) § 67386)

b) "Sexual harassment" as unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the work or educational setting in which specific conditions are met. "Sexual harassment" also includes sexual battery, sexual violence, and sexual exploitation.

c) "Sexual violence" as physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person without the affirmed consent of the person, and these acts include rape and sexual battery.

d) "Sexual exploitation" means a person taking sexual advantage of another person for the benefit of anyone other than that person without that person's consent, including, but not limited to: prostituting or trafficking of another person, or the nonconsensual recording or distribution of images or audio of another person's sexual activity or intimate parts. (EC § 66262.5)

2) Requires each postsecondary educational institution that receives state financial assistance, beginning on September 1, 2024, to annually train its students on sexual violence and sexual harassment, and consider updating the annual training every two years thereafter beginning September 1, 2026. (EC § 67385.7)

3) Requires the governing board of the community college district (CCD) and the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), and requests of the Regents of the University of California (UC) and governing boards of independent colleges and universities that receive state financial assistance, as part of the hiring process for an appointment to an academic, athletic, or administrative position with their respective campuses, to:

a) Require an applicant to disclose any final administrative or judicial decision issued within the last 7 years from the date of submission of the application determining that the applicant committed sexual harassment, and permit applicants to disclose if they have filed an appeal with the previous employer or with the United States Department of Education.

b) Require the campuses, if an applicant reaches the final stages of the application process for the specified position, to use a specified signed

release form to engage in a reasonable attempt to obtain information from the previous employer concerning any substantiated allegations of misconduct. (EC §§ 87604.5, 89521, 92612.1, and 66281.9)

4) Provides that a depicted individual has a cause of action against a person who does any of the following:

   a) Creates and intentionally discloses digitized sexually explicit material portraying the depicted individual, and the person knows, or reasonably should know, that the depicted individual in that material did not consent to its creation or disclosure or was a minor when the material was created.

   b) Intentionally discloses digitized sexually explicit material portraying the depicted individual that the person did not create, and the person knows, or reasonably should know, that the depicted individual in that material did not consent to the creation of the digitized sexually explicit material or was a minor when the material was created. (Civil Code § 1708.86)

This bill:

1) Delays implementation of the provisions of this bill to August 1, 2027.

2) Adds the following definitions and stipulations:

   a) "Depicted individual" means an individual who is portrayed in sexually explicit material.

   b) "Digitization" means a process by which any of the following are realistically depicted: i) the nude body parts of another human being as the nude body parts of the depicted individual, ii) computer-generated nude body parts as the nude body parts of the depicted individual, and iii) the depicted individual engaging in sexual conduct in which the depicted individual did not engage.

   c) "Digitized sexually explicit material" means any portion of a visual or audiovisual work created or substantially altered through digitization, including an image, that shows the depicted individual in the nude or appearing to engage in, or being subjected to, sexual conduct.

d) "Sextortion" means a threat to use sexual or intimate images or videos, however obtained, to compel another person to produce sexual or intimate images or videos, engage in sexual acts, or provide anything of value.

e) "Sexual conduct" means any of the following: i) masturbation; ii) sexual intercourse; iii) sexual penetration of the vagina or rectum by, or with, an object; iv) the transfer of semen by means of sexual conduct from the penis directly onto the depicted individual as a result of ejaculation; and v) sadomasochistic abuse involving the depicted individual.

f) Expands the definition of "sexual exploitation" by adding that it includes:

   i) The creation or generation of digitized sexually explicit materials without the depicted individual's written consent.

   ii) The distribution of digitized sexually explicit materials, if the individual distributing the materials knows or should have known that the depicted individual did not provide written consent to the disclosure.

g) Expands the definition of "sexual harassment" by adding that it includes stalking, sextortion, and technology-facilitated sexual harassment.

h) "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that could cause a reasonable person to do either of the following: i) fear for their safety or the safety of others, or ii) suffer substantial emotional distress.

i) "Technology-facilitated sexual harassment" means sexual harassment that occurs on, or is facilitated by, digital platforms or digital technologies.

3) Provides updated definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence, as appropriate, for the following:

   a) Requiring the governing board of CCDs and Trustees of the CSU, and requesting of the Regents of the UC and governing boards of independent colleges and universities, that applicants to disclose if they have committed sexual harassment.

   b) Requiring the governing board of CCDs and Trustees of the CSU, and requesting of the UC, to provide educational and preventive information

about sexual violence to students at all campuses of their respective segments and to provide annual training on sexual violence and sexual harassment.

c) Requiring CCC and CSU campuses, and requests of UC campuses, to develop policies to encourage students to report any campus crimes involving sexual violence.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "The definition of "sexual harassment" in California's Education Code was developed before generative artificial intelligence tools became widely available. As a result, higher education institutions lack uniform standards for defining, investigating, and remediating technology-facilitated sexual harassment. AB 2212, the HEAR Survivors Act, updates the definition of "sexual harassment" in the Education Code to account for modern digital technologies, and requires that California's higher education institutions adopt and publish policies addressing technology-facilitated sexual harassment. Updating these terms and policies in the Education Code promotes consistent campus responses, reduces stigma, and reinforces that digital abuse is no less serious than offline misconduct."

2) *This bill expands definitions of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation.* AB 2212 intends to address sexual harassment that is aided or facilitated through the internet, smartphones, and the rise of generative artificial intelligence, including the availability of free and widespread text-to-image models that can quickly generate digital images with a written prompt.

   This bill uses existing definitions from the Education Code and other Codes and consolidates them in one section under the Equity in Higher Education Act. Though many of these definitions are not new to state law or to the Education Code, this is the first time they are being considered as part of the definition of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation on college campuses.

   At a high level, this bill expands the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and requires these expanded definitions be included in a postsecondary educational institution's annual training for students, updating and posting educational and preventive information on sexual violence, and updating employment and hiring processes to require applicants to disclose if they have committed sexual harassment.

a) For "sexual harassment", this bill expands the definition by adding that it includes a new type of sexual harassment defined as technology-facilitated sexual harassment, which is sexual harassment that occurs on, or is facilitated by, digital platforms or digital technologies. This bill also adds stalking and sextortion to the definition of sexual harassment.

   i) For "stalking", this definition is consistent with the federal Clery Act, which requires colleges and universities to report campus crime data, support victims of violence, and publicly outline the policies and procedures put in place to improve campus safety. This bill adds stalking as a form of sexual harassment.

   ii) For "sextortion", this is defined elsewhere in the Education Code by AB 2932 (Joe Patterson, Chapter 118, Statutes of 2024), which requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider including content on sextortion in the health curriculum framework. This bill adds sextortion as a form of sexual harassment.

b) For "sexual exploitation", this bill expands the definition by adding the creation, generation, or distribution of digitized sexually explicit materials without a depicted person's written consent.

3) *Standards of affirmative consent and written consent.* Existing state processes for the prevention of sexual harassment on college campuses generally use an affirmative consent standard, which is currently defined in the Education Code as affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. This bill largely references affirmative consent consistent with existing Education Code; however, this bill expands the definition of sexual exploitation by including the creation, generation, or the distribution of digitized sexually explicit materials without the depicted individual's *written consent*. This requirement is consistent with language in the Civil Code; specifically, SB 621 (Bauer-Kahan, Chapter 673, Statutes of 2025) provides that a depicted individual (known as a person who is portrayed in sexually explicit material) has a cause of action against a person who creates and intentionally discloses digitized sexually explicit material portraying the depicted individual if the depicted individual did not provide *written consent*. Colleges and universities would need to reconcile the two different consent standards depending on the type of misconduct, which will likely require widespread student, faculty, and staff training and education.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 621 (Bauer-Kahan, Chapter 673, Statutes of 2025) fortifies existing law providing a cause of action to persons depicted in nonconsensual, sexually explicit, digitized material.

SB 493 (Jackson, Chapter 303, Statutes of 2020) requires postsecondary institutions to adopt rules and procedures for the prevention of sexual harassment, and adopt and post on their websites the grievance procedures to resolve complaints of sexual harassment.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee on the version of this bill amended on August 13, 2026:

- The UC estimates General Fund implementation costs in the mid-hundreds of thousands annually. This estimate assumes that an additional .5 FTE at each location at a cost of $700,000 ($75,000 x 10 campuses) would be required to support increased workload and administrative costs to manage complex dual-track case evaluations, as compliance officers must manually vet and cross-reference every report against existing federal frameworks, expanded state statutory criteria, and campus policies. The UC also notes there would be modest one-time resource and financial impacts for staff training on new and expanded definitions, required updates to campus orientations and training modules, and actions required to ensure accessibility and appropriate translations.

- The CSU estimates one-time General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars for various administrative activities necessary to implement the bill's provisions, including the updating of its systemwide nondiscrimination policy to include the new definitions, and ensuring that student conduct policies regarding bullying cover what is specified in the bill. The CSU also estimates minor, ongoing costs for providing information related to bullying, harassment, and intimidation at new student orientations.

- The Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges estimates that the costs to community college districts would likely be minor.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Survivors + Allies (source)
ACLU California Action
ASUC Sexual Violence Commission
Cal State Student Association
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California Women's Law Center
Courage California
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Kapor Center Advocacy
Public Counsel
Survivors Pro Bono
TechNet
UltraViolet Action
Undergraduate Student Association Council at the University of California, Los Angeles
University of California Student Association
VALOR
Young Data Scientists League

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 13:13:06

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2222
Author: Ward (D) and Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/24/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-10, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Personal Income Tax Law and Corporation Tax Law: credits: local news outlets: business expense deduction: excessive employee remuneration

SOURCE: Rebuild Local News

DIGEST: This bill authorizes a refundable credit under the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes for local news outlets to hire journalists working in California; and conforms to recent federal changes to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 162(m), relating to the deductibility of certain excessive employee remuneration.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 (1) Add cross-references to new paragraphs added to the tentative minimum tax (TMT) under the Corporate Tax Law; and (2) Make technical amendments replacing "local news organizations" with "local news outlets."

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 (1) Add the measure's credit onto the list of credits that can reduce tax below the Tentative Minimum Tax under both the

Personal Income and Corporation Taxes; (2) Add the measure's credit into provisions of law that set the order in which taxpayers can claim credits; (3) Add a definition for "annualized wages, salary or passthrough income;" (4) Set a deadline of January 1, 2028, for the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to issue guidance for nonprofit organizations to claim the credit; (5) Clarify the administration of the credit for nonprofit organizations by stating that the credit can reduce the tax imposed on unrelated business taxable income; and (6) Make additional technical and conforming changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Allows, pursuant to IRC 162, a deduction for the ordinary and necessary expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year in carrying on any trade or business, including a reasonable allowance for salaries or other compensation for personal services actually rendered.

2) Disallows, pursuant to IRC Section 162(m), a deduction by any publicly held corporation for applicable employee remuneration that is otherwise deductible with respect to any covered employee to the extent that such remuneration for the taxable year exceeds $1 million.

3) Applies a controlled-group aggregation rule to the IRC 162(m) deduction limitation, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025, as follows (One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) of 2025, Section 70603):

   a) If a publicly held corporation is part of a controlled group under IRC 414, compensation paid by all controlled-group members to a specified covered employee is aggregated for purposes of the $1 million limitation.

   b) The allowable deduction is allocated among group members in proportion to the remuneration each member paid.

4) Defines a "covered employee," for the purposes of IRC 162, as an "employee of the taxpayer" if such employee meets one of the following criteria (Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), Section 13601):

a) The employee is the principal executive officer (PEO) or principal financial officer (PFO) of the taxpayer at any time during the taxable year, or was acting in such a capacity;

b) The total compensation of the employee for the taxable year is required to be reported to shareholders under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act) by reason of the employee being among the three highest compensated officers for the taxable year;

c) The individual was a covered employee of the taxpayer (or any predecessor) for any preceding taxable year beginning after December 31, 2016.

5) Expands the definition of a covered employee to include any employee of the taxpayer whose total compensation for the taxable year places the individual among the three highest compensated officers for the taxable year (other than any individual who is the PEO or PFO of the taxpayer at any time during the taxable year, or was an individual acting in such a capacity) even if the compensation of the officer is not required to be reported to shareholders under the Exchange Act (TCJA, Section 13601).

6) For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026, the expanded definition of a covered employee applies to the five highest paid employees (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Section 9708).

7) Establishes an Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) calculation, which is owed on the excess amount of TMT that is greater than the regular tax owed by the taxpayer. The AMT exists to ensure that taxpayers cannot significantly reduce their tax liability in the regular system. The TMT is calculated with fewer deductions than the regular tax.

Existing state law:

1) Does not automatically conform to changes made by Congress to the Internal Revenue Code, except for changes to pension and retirement programs; instead, the Legislature must affirmatively conform state law to federal to ensure consistent treatment for the same items.

2) Conforms to the IRC as of January 1, 2025, with modifications (SB 711, McNerney, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2055).

3) Conforms to IRC 162(m) as of the specified date, January 1, 2025, with modifications.

4) Does not conform to the expanded definition of covered employee or the controlled group aggregation rule in ARPA and OBBBA.

5) Conforms, with modification, to IRC 55-59, pertaining to the AMT and TMT.

6) Prohibits, generally, taxpayers from using tax credits against the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes to reduce their tax liability under the tentative minimum tax; a part of the alternative minimum tax. However, the Legislature has allowed several credits to do so, such as the Motion Picture Production Credit 4.0 and the elective refundable credit for the business credit limitation.

7) Requires credits allowed against the net tax under the Personal Income Tax to be applied in a specified order, including applying credits that reduce the regular tax below the TMT.

8) Allows various income tax credits and deductions, as well as sales and use tax exemptions.

9) Limits the total of all business credits, including credit carry forwards, to $5 million or 50% of liability, whichever is greater, commencing in the 2024 taxable year and ending before the 2030 taxable year, after which limits credits to $5 million or 75% of liability, whichever is greater, with some exceptions (SB 167, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 34, Statutes of 2024 and SB 122, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2026). Taxpayers can make an irrevocable election to receive an annual refundable credit claimed in future tax years for business credits equal to credit amounts not claimed due to the limitation.

This bill:

1) Conforms state tax law to two recent federal changes made to IRC 162(m): the expanded definition of covered employee enacted by ARPA, and the controlled group aggregation rule enacted by OBBBA.

2) Adds the refundable credit for local news outlets to the list of tax credits that can reduce tax below TMT.

3) Places its credit at the end of the list set within state law establishing the order in which taxpayers can claim credit under the Personal Income Tax.

4) Authorizes, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2032, a refundable credit under the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes to a local news outlet, equal to:

   a) $20,000 for each qualifying journalist continuously employed on a full-time basis, as defined, by the qualified taxpayer, not to exceed five journalists.

   b) $15,000 for each qualifying journalist continuously employed on a full-time basis in excess of five journalists employed by the qualified taxpayer.

   c) An additional $15,000 for each qualifying journalist employed on a full-time basis in a new journalism position.

   d) An additional $7,500 for each qualifying part-time journalist employed on a part-time basis by the qualified taxpayer.

   e) Defines "Qualified Taxpayer" to mean a person or entity engaged in a trade or business within California that owns or operates a local news outlet that satisfies all of the following:

      i) Is organized in this state, or legally registered to conduct business within this state, for at least 12 months prior to the start of the taxable year.

      ii) Operates a qualifying digital news outlet, qualifying broadcast station, or qualifying print publication, as defined;

      iii) Publicly discloses all of its beneficial owners, or its board of directors if the taxpayer is a nonprofit entity, on its internet website or in its publication;

      iv) Carries active media liability insurance coverage for the taxable year;

      v) Maintains and publicly displays an editorial policy for error correction and clarification that includes an accessible process for reporting errors and complaints; and

vi) Is not controlled, either directly or indirectly, by a political action committee or political organizations described in IRC 527; or tax exempt pursuant to IRC 501(c)(4).

f) Defines "taxpayer," for the purposes of the credit under the Corporations Tax Law, to include tax exempt organizations.

g) Defines "on a full-time basis" as employed by, or is the sole proprietor of, a qualified taxpayer on a full-time basis of at least 30 hours per week for more than 26 weeks, with annualized wages, salary, or passthrough income of no less than $35,000 during the taxable year.

h) Defines "on a part-time basis" as employed by a qualified taxpayer for at least 20 hours per week but less than 30 hours per week for more than 26 weeks, with annualized wages or salary of no less than $25,000 during the taxable year.

i) Defines "annualized wages, salary or passthrough income" to mean the wages, salary, or passthrough income paid to or earned by the individual for qualifying employment during the taxable year, divided by the number of weeks of that employment during the taxable year, multiplied by 52.

j) Authorizes the credit, under the Corporations Tax Law, to be applied against any tax liabilities that may be owed by an exempt organization for their unrelated business tax income and specifies that the excess credit shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

k) Requires, by January 1, 2028, the FTB to issue guidance on the administration and enforcement of the credit for tax exempt organizations, including the form and manner in which those organizations shall claim the credit and receive a refund for excess credit.

l) Contains legislative findings and declarations to comply with Section 41 of the Revenue & Taxation Code.

m) Defines additional terms.

5) Makes other technical and conforming changes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) estimates that this bill would result in General Fund revenue increases of $9.9 million in 2026-27, $15 million in 2027-28, and $23 million in 2028-29. FTB would incur administrative costs of $434,000 in 2027-28, and minor amounts annually thereafter, to implement the provisions of the bill (General Fund, see Staff Comments).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Rebuild Local News (Source)
Asian American Journalists Association, Los Angeles
California Broadcasters Association
California Independent News Alliance
California Newspaper Publishers Association
CSU Journalism Chairs
Latino Media Collaborative
Media Alliance
Media Guild of the West, Newsguild-CWA Local 39213
Pacific Media Workers Guild (The Newsguild-Communications Workers of America Local 39521)
SAG-AFTRA
The Ark

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
California Taxpayers Association
Council on State Taxation
Family Business Association of California
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Solano County Taxpayers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "Local journalism plays an essential role in strengthening democracy and civic engagement by ensuring communities have access to reliable information about local government, schools, and public safety. Yet across the country and in California, local news

organizations are facing unprecedented financial challenges that have led to widespread newsroom closures and a dramatic decline in the number of journalists covering local communities. AB 2222 provides targeted relief to local news organizations by creating a refundable tax credit tied directly to the employment of journalists. By helping offset the cost of retaining and hiring reporters, photographers, editors, and other newsroom staff, this bill aims to stabilize local news outlets and encourage greater investment in original reporting that serves California communities. Supporting local journalism means supporting informed communities, stronger civic participation, and greater transparency in government. AB 2222 represents a practical step to help sustain the journalists who provide Californians with the trusted local reporting they depend on every day."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the California Chamber of Commerce, "AB 2222 seeks to further conform California law to the federal limitations under Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m) related to governing the deductibility of executive compensation by publicly traded corporations. While CalChamber has no concerns with the development of the journalism tax credit provisions, we have significant concerns with increasing businesses' tax liabilities to fund the new tax credit… While AB 2222 increases conformity with current federal law, it does so by expanding the executive compensation deduction limitation, resulting in permanently nondeductible compensation for affected businesses. These prohibited deductions generally cannot be recovered in future tax years, increasing a business' taxable income without accounting for commonly used compensation arrangements. Executive compensation structures often involve stock-based compensation, deferred compensation arrangements, and multi-year performance incentives. Companies remain obligated to pay compensation that has been agreed upon via multi-year contracts, yet AB 2222 would permanently deny a corresponding tax deduction. This increases the cost of operating in California and reduces resources available for further investments, workforce expansion, and research and development."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-10, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez,

Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Hadwick, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Haley Summers / REV. & TAX. / (916) 651-4117
8/24/26 11:56:54

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2225
Author: Patel (D), Garcia (D), Muratsuchi (D) and Ransom (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-1, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil achievement: State Education Alignment and Impact Plan

SOURCE: California School Boards Association

DIGEST: This bill requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to convene a working group to develop a State Education Alignment and Impact Plan to support cohesion and collaboration between state level entities and the support that they provide to local educational agencies (LEAs).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the single multiple measures public school accountability system, which must measure the overall performance of numerically significant pupil subgroups in schools, including charter schools, school districts, and county offices of education (COEs). Numerically significant pupil subgroups include: ethnic subgroups, socioeconomic disadvantaged pupils, English learners, long-term English learners, pupils with disabilities, foster youth, and homeless youth. (Education Code (EC) § 52052)

2) Requires Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) to address how the district will address and improve in eight state priority areas, including pupil achievement as measured by, among other things, the percentage of pupils who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU), or the completion of career pathways. (EC § 52060)

3) Requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to adopt and annually revise LCAPs. (EC §§ 47604.33, 52060, and 52066)

4) Establishes a single system for providing support (System of Support) to LEAs and schools and for programs established by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to do all of the following:

   a) Support the continuous improvement of pupil performance within the state priorities;

   b) Address the gaps in achievement between pupil subgroups;

   c) Improve outreach and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that the goals, actions, and services described in school district and COE LCAPs reflect the needs of pupils and the community, especially for historically underrepresented or low-achieving populations. (EC § 52059.5)

5) Establishes the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), whose purpose is to advise and assist school districts, county superintendents of schools, and charter schools in achieving the goals set forth in their LCAPs. The CCEE is required to achieve this purpose by facilitating continuous improvement for LEAs within California's Statewide System of Supports (SSOS). (EC § 52074)

6) Requires, for any school district for which one or more pupil subgroups meet specified criteria, the county superintendent of schools to provide technical assistance for a minimum of two years following the identification that shall be focused on building the school district's capacity to develop and implement actions and services responsive to pupil and community needs. (EC section 52071(c))

This bill:

1) Requires the SPI, on or before October 1, 2027, to convene a working group to develop a State Education Alignment and Impact Plan, as specified, and requires that the working group consist of all of the following members:

a) The Speaker of the Assembly or the Assembly Member's designee of another member of the Assembly.

b) The President pro Tempore of the Senate or the Senator's designee of another member of the Senate.

c) The President of the State Board of Education (SBE) or the president's designee of another member of the SBE.

d) The Education Commissioner or the commissioner's designee of a deputy commissioner.

e) The Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), or the secretary's designee of a deputy or assistant secretary.

f) The Executive Director of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) or the executive director's designee of a deputy director of the commission.

2) Requires the SPI, on or before November 1, 2027, to convene a stakeholder advisory group to solicit feedback and input during the development of the State Education Alignment and Impact Plan. Requires the SPI to meet regularly with the stakeholder advisory group. Requires that the stakeholder advisory group be inclusive and representative of the diversity of the state, and include, but not be limited to, representatives of all of the following:

a) Governing board members of school districts, including small school districts.

b) Members of county boards of education.

c) Education labor organizations.

d) School district and county office of education administrators.

e) Charter schools.

f) School district business officials.

g) Parents of public school pupils.

h) Special education administrators.

i) Educational equity organizations.

j) Public school pupils.

3) Requires the working group established in #1 above to develop a State Education Alignment and Impact Plan that is foundationally based in aligning state efforts to support LEAs. Required that the plan include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

   a) Specific goals and benchmarks for the state to support LEAs in closing the achievement gap, gaps, which shall be developed based on a consideration of the following principles:

      i) Measurable outcome targets for state entities, including, but not limited to, the Governor, the Legislature, the California Department of Education (CDE), the SBE, CalHHS, the CTC, and other applicable state departments that allow for the assessment of the extent to which state entities are collaborating and communicating with each other to better align support for LEAs and not placing undue or unnecessary barriers on LEAs int heir efforts to improve pupil outcomes and close achievement gaps.

      ii) Broadly assessing state-imposed requirements and the extent that those requirements help or inhibit LEAs' efforts to close achievement gaps, including, but not limited to, an assessment of state-adopted policies and determinations of whether the policies result in increased responsibilities for LEAs, create conflict between state entities, and inhibit the state's goal of effectively supporting LEAs to close achievement gaps.

      iii) Funding levels and alignment, including an assessment of restricted and unrestricted funding for local educational agencies, as specified.

      iv) Interagency collaboration among state agencies, departments, and other state entities to avoid programmatic overlap or the provision of inconsistent or conflicting guidance, as specified.

   b) Specific performance targets aimed at creating greater interoperational collaboration and coordination between the SBE, the CDE, the CTC, the CCEE, and other relevant entities.

   c) An assessment of state entities tasked with meeting the state's public education goals and the establishment of roles and actions that the state can take to reduce fragmentation and prevent overlapping guidance and regulations.

   d) Recommendations for specific actions that each state educational entity, including the Governor and the Legislature, can take to reduce the number of

unfunded or partially funded mandates and align state-level operations and initiatives with the principles of local control.

4) Authorizes the working group to use the Education Commissioner's forthcoming findings and recommendations for a second phase of education governance consolidation and streamlining to help inform its work.

5) Prohibits the provisions of this bill from being construed to allow for the establishment of new recommendations of either of the following:

   a) New LEA mandates or allow for the new or revised local accountability structures for LEAs.

   b) New requirements on LEAs or requirements to submit any new or additional report beyond existing federal and state reporting requirements.

6) Requires the workgroup to only rely upon metrics provided through existing statewide data collections, to the maximum extent practicable.

7) Requires the working group to submit the State Education Alignment and Impact Plan to the Governor and the Legislature, as specified, on or before October 1, 2028.

8) Encourages the Assembly Committee on Budget, the Assembly Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, and the Senate Committee on Education to evaluate the state's progress in meeting the benchmarks and goals established in the State Education Alignment and Impact Plan, on or before March 1, 2029, and annually thereafter.

9) Defines "local educational agency" to mean a school district, COE, or charter school.

Comment

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "AB 2225 convenes educators, families, researchers, and policymakers to develop a comprehensive statewide plan with clear goals, benchmarks, and annual performance targets to close achievement gaps and evaluate how well our state education programs are supporting student success.

   "The achievement gap - persistent disparities in academic outcomes between different groups of students, often along lines of income, race, language status,

or access to resources - show up in test scores, graduation rates, and college readiness, and they reflect deeper inequities in opportunity.

"AB 2225 is the first of a package of 4 bills in CSBA's package to address these persistent gaps."

2) *California's state education entities.* This bill establishes a working group and a stakeholder advisory group to develop a State Education Alignment and Impact Plan to align state efforts to support LEAs. The bill requires that the Plan include, among other things, an assessment of the state entities tasked with meeting the state's public education goals as well as recommendations on actions that the state can take to reduce fragmentation and prevent overlapping guidance and regulations.

   California's education ecosystem comprises several entities with distinct objectives that are intended to work together to serve students and schools. They include the following:

   a) The Governor signs legislation and proposes programs and school funding allocations through the state budget.

   b) The Legislature reviews and approves the Governor's budget and passes legislation, including those that establish new programs and initiatives, and define the roles and responsibilities of state and local educational entities.

   c) The SBE serves as a policymaking body appointed by the Governor that is responsible for adopting and approving academic standards, curriculum frameworks, instructional materials, state assessments, and regulations.

   d) The SPI is an elected official who implements laws and programs as head of the CDE. The CDE and the SPI are responsible for administering educational programs; enforcing education laws and regulations; collecting demographic, fiscal, and performance data; providing technical assistance and training; distributing funds; and overseeing COEs and LCAPs.

   e) The CTC develops program standards and accredits educator credential preparation programs; issues teaching and service credentials as well as permits; and administers credential discipline.

   f) The CCEE provides various levels of academic support and technical assistance to LEAs, helping them achieve the goals set forth in their LCAPs and facilitate continuous improvement within the SSOS.

g) The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) helps LEAs identify, prevent, and resolve financial, operational, and data management challenges by providing management assistance and professional learning opportunities.

3) *The Local Control Funding Formula*. This bill seeks to address concerns voiced by LEAs that California's existing accountability and governance systems lack cohesion, which, in turn, creates barriers and burdens on their ability to support student outcomes. Much of California's current accountability mechanisms resulted from the state's shift away from a previous education funding model based on rigid categorical programs and highly centralized education programs to one that emphasizes local control—known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

   The LCFF was enacted in 2013-14 to simplify school funding and improve student outcomes by giving LEAs more control over how to spend state funding, and providing more resources to meet the educational needs of low-income students, English learners, and foster youth. To provide oversight regarding how LEAs spend LCFF funding and serve students, the state also established a new system of transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement through the LCAP, the California Schools Dashboard, the SSOS, and the CCEE. These systems work hand in hand to identify LEAs that need additional assistance in supporting students from historically underserved backgrounds and to monitor their progress in addressing student needs.

4) *Local Control and Accountability Plans.* The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities. The LCAP provides an opportunity for LEAs (school districts, COEs, and charter schools) to share their stories of how, what, and why programs and services are selected to meet their local needs. LCAPs help ensure that (1) LEAs address the needs of consistently low-performing student groups and (2) higher performing LEAs address the needs of low-performing schools within the LEA.

5) *California School Dashboard*. The Dashboard is an online tool that shares school and LEA performance and progress on both state and local measures that are drawn from the eight priority areas of the LCFF. State measures apply to LEAs, charter schools, and student groups, and are based on data that is collected annually across the state. The state measures are as follows: Academic Performance (reported separately for English language arts and Math assessments); Chronic Absenteeism; College/Career; English Learner Progress;

Graduation Rate; Suspension Rate; and Science. LEAs receive one of five color-coded performance levels on the state indicators. From highest to lowest, the five performance levels are: Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red.

Local measures apply at the LEA and charter school level and are based on data collected at the local level. Provided an LEA satisfies the performance standards for each local measure, the Dashboard will automatically assign a performance level of Met. If an LEA does not meet the performance standards, the Dashboard will automatically assign a performance level of Not Met or Not Met for Two or More Years, as applicable.

The Dashboard is updated annually. For LEAs and schools in need of additional assistance or intervention to support student achievement, the Dashboard helps identify specific areas in need of targeted assistance.

6) *California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.* The CCEE was established as part of the LCFF to advise and assist LEAs in achieving the goals set forth in their LCAPs and facilitate continuous improvement within the SSOS. The CCEE provides universal, targeted, and intensive supports and resources for LEAs through the work of their three Centers for Educational Excellence:

   a) The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Leading (TTLC)

   b) The Center for Innovation, Instruction, and Impact (I3)

   c) The Center for Transformative Systems (TSEE)

   For more on the types of support provided by the respective centers of the CCEE, please refer to the Senate Education Committee Analysis.

7) *California's Statewide System of Support*. The SSOS was established under the LCFF to provide varying levels of assistance to meet the unique needs of LEAs. This system ensures that all LEAs have access to the resources and support they need to improve student outcomes. The purpose of the SSOS, as articulated in statute, is to build the capacity of LEAs in each of the following ways:

   a) Support continuous improvement of student performance in each of the eight state priority areas, based on Dashboard results;

   b) Address the gaps in achievement between student groups; and

c) Improve outreach and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that goals, actions, and services described in school district and COE LCAPs reflect the needs of students and the community, especially for historically underrepresented or low-achieving groups.

The SSOS is based on a three-level framework:

- Level 1 - Universal Support: This foundational level of support is available to all districts, charters, COEs, and Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPAs) in California. Universal supports include access to tools and resources, professional learning, and services provided by various technical assistance providers within the SSOS, coordinated by the CCEE and the CDE.

- Level 2 – Targeted/Supplemental Assistance or Differential Assistance (DA): Targeted support is available to LEAs with an identified area of need that meets the eligibility requirements set by the SBE At this level, COEs, the CDE, and the Geographic Lead Agencies (Geo Leads) provide DA to eligible LEAs in the form of individually designed assistance to address identified performance issues, including significant performance disparities among student groups. Targeted supports often include specialized professional learning, coaching, consultation, and/or strategic planning.

- Level 3 – Intensive (Direct Technical Assistance): Intensive support is provided to districts and charters identified as requiring an additional level of hands-on partnership, often due to persistent performance challenges and a lack of improvement over three of the last four consecutive years. Intensive support often involves a collaborative process with the CCEE, COE, SELPA, the CDE, and/or Geo Leads to determine the most effective support strategies. This tier of support may include identifying a technical assistance provider with relevant expertise to work closely with the district or charter to improve student outcomes.

Outside the three levels of support, a referral to the SPI may occur with approval from the SBE if the LEA has failed or is unable to implement the recommendations of the CCEE, or if the LEA's inadequate performance is either so persistent or so acute as to require intervention by the SPI.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Department of Education estimates General Fund costs of $188,000 and 1.0 position to convene the working group to develop the CTAG Plan.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California School Boards Association (source)
ABC Unified School District
Alisal Union School District
American Association of University Women - California
Anaheim Union High School District
Antioch Unified School District
Brentwood Union School District
Butte County Office of Education
Calexico Unified School District
California Association of Suburban School Districts
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Charter Schools Association
California State PTA
Castro Valley Unified School District
CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Chowchilla Elementary School District
Contra Costa County
Downey Unified School District
El Monte Union High School District
El Rancho Unified School District
Fresno County Office of Education
Huntington Beach Union High School District
Irvine Unified School District
Jefferson Union High School District
Legislative Action Committee - San Mateo County School Boards Association
Liberty Union High School District
Lincoln Unified School District
Long Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles County School Trustee Association
Los Angeles Unified School District
Monterey County Office of Education
Monterey County Superintendent of Schools
Moreno Valley Unified School District
Mount Pleasant Elementary School District

Mountain View Whisman School District
Napa Valley Unified School District
Needles Unified School District
Newark Unified School District
Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Parlier Unified School District
Perris Elementary School District
Placer County Office of Education
Pleasanton Unified School District
Rim of the World Unified School District
Rincon Valley Union School District
Ripon Unified School District
San Benito County Board of Education
San Francisco Unified School District
San Lorenzo Unified School District
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District
San Ramon Valley Unified School District
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Santa Cruz City Schools
Santa Paula Unified School District
Santa Rosa City Schools
Scotts Valley Unified School District
Sierra Sands Unified School District
Solana Beach School District
Soledad Unified School District
South Monterey County Joint Union High School District
Spreckels Union School District
Turlock Unified School District
Val Verde Unified School District

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-1, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen,

Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 10:13:55

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2227
Author: Connolly (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-20, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Farm labor contractors: surety bonds

SOURCE: California Farmworker Coalition
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

DIGEST: This bill increases the amount of a surety bond that a farm labor contractor (FLC) is required to deposit to the Labor Commissioner in order to obtain a FLC license, as specified. This bill also requires the Labor Commissioner to include the bond information on the public FLC license database, as specified, and disclose information about the availability of the bond and the process to access the bond to any worker that has filed a claim against an FLC.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes, under the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA), employment standards for migrant and seasonal farmworkers related to wages, housing, transportation, disclosures and recordkeeping. The MSPA also requires farm labor contractors to register with

the U.S. Department of Labor. (29 U.S.C. Sections 1801, et seq.; 29 C.F.R. Part 500.)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), various entities including the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) under the direction of the Labor Commissioner, and empowers the Labor Commissioner with ensuring a just day's pay in every workplace and promotes economic justice through robust enforcement of labor laws. (Labor Code §79-107)

2) Requires the Labor Commissioner to issue a license to any person acting as a *farm labor contractor (FLC)*, as specified, and establishes civil penalties for any person who violates these provisions. (Labor Code §1683)

   a) Prohibits the Labor Commissioner from issuing a license to a person to act as an FLC, or renewing that license, until specified conditions are met, including a written application, a surety bond, and a license fee, as specified. (Labor Code §1683-1699)

   b) Specifies that the FLC must deposit a surety bond with the Labor Commissioner in an amount based on the size of the person's annual payroll for all employees, as follows: (Labor Code §1684)

      i) For payrolls up to five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000), a twenty-five-thousand-dollar ($25,000) bond.

      ii) For payrolls of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) to two million dollars ($2,000,000), a fifty-thousand-dollar ($50,000) bond.

      iii) For payrolls greater than two million dollars ($2,000,000), a seventy-five-thousand-dollar ($75,000) bond.

         (1) Provides that for purposes of this paragraph, the Labor Commissioner must require documentation of the size of the person's annual payroll, which may include, but is not limited to, information provided by the person to the Employment Development Department, the Franchise Tax Board, the Division of Workers' Compensation, the insurer providing the licensee's workers' compensation insurance, or the Internal Revenue Service.

(2) Specifies that if the contractor has been the subject of a final judgment in a year in an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the bond required, they are required to deposit an additional bond within 60 days.

(3) Specifies that all bonds, as required, must be payable to the people of the State of California and are conditioned upon the farm labor contractor's compliance, as specified. The bond is also payable for interest on wages and for any damages arising from violation of orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, and for any other monetary relief awarded to an agricultural worker as a result of a violation, as specified.

2) Defines a "farm labor contractor" as any person who, for a fee, employs workers to render personal services in connection with the production of any farm products to, for, or under the direction of a third person, or who recruits, solicits, supplies, or hires workers on behalf of an employer engaged in the growing or producing of farm products, and who, for a fee, provides in connection therewith one or more of the following services: furnishes board, lodging, or transportation for those workers; supervises, times, checks, counts, weighs, or otherwise directs or measures their work; or disburses wage payments to these persons. (Labor Code §1682)

   a) Specifies that "farm labor contractor" includes any "day hauler." "Day hauler" means any person who is employed by a farm labor contractor to transport, or who for a fee transports, by motor vehicle, workers to render personal services in connection with the production of any farm products to, for, or under the direction of a third person.

   b) Specifies that "farm labor contractor" does not include a commercial packing house engaged in both the harvesting and the packing of citrus fruit or soft fruit for a client or customer.

3) Requires, on and after July 1, 2016, a person acting as a *foreign labor contractor* to register with the Labor Commissioner, as specified. (Business and Professions Code §9998.1.5)

   a) Prohibits the Labor Commissioner from registering a person to act as a foreign labor contractor, or renewing a registration, until specified conditions are met, including a written application, a surety bond, and a registration fee.

b) Specifies that a foreign labor contractor must deposit with the Labor Commissioner a surety bond in an amount based on the size of the person's annual gross receipts from operations as a foreign labor contractor, as follows:

i) For gross receipts up to five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000), a fifty-thousand-dollar ($50,000) bond.

ii) For gross receipts of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) to two million dollars ($2,000,000), a one-hundred-thousand-dollar ($100,000) bond.

iii) For gross receipts greater than two million dollars ($2,000,000), a one-hundred-fifty-thousand-dollar ($150,000) bond.

(1) Specifies that if the foreign labor contractor has been the subject of a final judgment in a year in an amount equal to that of the bond required, that contractor is required to deposit an additional bond within 60 days. The bond must be payable to the people of the State of California and must be conditioned on the foreign labor contractor compliance, as specified. The bond must also be payable for interest on wages and for any damages arising from violation of applicable orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, and for any other monetary relief awarded to a foreign worker as a result of a violation of law by the foreign labor contractor.

4) Provides that a person must not act as a farm labor contractor until a license to do so has been issued to the person by the Labor Commissioner and the license is in full force and effect and in the person's possession.

a) Provides that a person who violates this section, as specified, is subject to a civil penalty as follows:

i) For any initial citation, one hundred dollars ($100) for each farmworker employed by the unlicensed person, plus one hundred dollars ($100) for each calendar day that a violation occurs, for a total penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000).

ii) For a second citation, two hundred dollars ($200) for each farmworker employed by the unlicensed person, plus two hundred dollars ($200) for each calendar day that a violation occurs, for a total penalty not to exceed twenty thousand dollars ($20,000).

iii) For a third or subsequent citation, five hundred dollars ($500) for each farmworker employed by the unlicensed person, plus five hundred dollars ($500) for each calendar day that a violation occurs, for a total penalty not to exceed fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).

(1) If, upon inspection or investigation, the Labor Commissioner determines that a person has violated this section, the Labor Commissioner shall issue a citation, as specified.

(2) The civil penalties collected pursuant to this section must be deposited into the Farmworker Remedial Account and shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as specified.

(3) The specified civil penalties are in addition to any other penalty provided by law.

This bill:

1) Makes the following changes to the surety bond requirement for a person to obtain from the Labor Commissioner a license to act as an FLC:

   a) Requires a person to deposit with the Labor Commissioner a surety bond in an amount based on the size of the person's annual payroll, for all employees, as follows:

      i) For gross receipts up to five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000), a fifty-thousand-dollar ($50,000) bond.

      ii) For gross receipts of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) to two million dollars ($2,000,000), a one-hundred-thousand-dollar ($100,000) bond.

      iii) For gross receipts greater than two million dollars ($2,000,000), a one-hundred-fifty-thousand-dollar ($150,000) bond.

      iv) Requires the bond amounts described above to be deposited when a FLC first registers or files the application for their first annual renewal.

2) Requires the Labor Commissioner to include bond information on the public FLC license database, including the bond number, effective and expiration dates, bond size, and contact information for the surety company for all active bonds for the previous five years.

3) Requires the Labor Commissioner to disclose information about the availability of the surety bond and the process to access the surety bond to any worker that has filed a claim against an FLC.

4) Makes the following changes to the civil penalties for a person who violates the farm labor contractor license requirements, as follows:

   a) For any initial citation, one hundred dollars ($100) for each farmworker employed by the unlicensed person *or licensed farm labor contractor*, plus one hundred dollars ($100) for each calendar day that a violation occurs, for a total penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000).

   b) For a second citation, two hundred dollars ($200) for each farmworker employed by the unlicensed person *or licensed farm labor contractor*, plus two hundred dollars ($200) for each calendar day that a violation occurs, for a total penalty not to exceed twenty thousand dollars ($20,000).

   c) For a third or subsequent citation, five hundred dollars ($500) for each farmworker employed by the unlicensed person *or licensed farm labor contractor*, plus five hundred dollars ($500) for each calendar day that a violation occurs, for a total penalty not to exceed fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).

Background

Farmworkers and Wage Theft. California produces over 400 commodities including nearly half of the nation's vegetables and over three-quarters of the nation's fruits and nuts.[1] California is home to an estimated 400,000 farm workers that are the backbone to this country's agricultural system. Although California (and the rest of the nation) relies on the important work of farm workers, they tend to earn some of the lowest wages in the labor market and they also experience wage theft and other workplace abuses all too often.

A report by the Economic Policy Institute in 2020 found that employers violate federal wage and hour laws designed to protect farm workers and investigations have found millions in wage theft every year.[2] In fact, the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division conducted more than 31,000 investigations of U.S. employers in agriculture between 2000 and 2019, an average of 1,500 per

[1] California Agricultural Production Statistics, **https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/**
[2] Costa, Daniel, Phillip Martin, and Zachariah Rutledge. "Federal labor standards enforcement in agriculture." Economic Policy Institute, Dec. 15, 2020. **https://www.epi.org/publication/federal-labor-standards-enforcement-in-agriculture-data-reveal-the-biggest-violators-and-raise-new-questions-about-how-to-improve-and-target-efforts-to-protect-farmworkers/**

year. As a result of these investigations, employers were ordered to pay $76 million in back wages to 154,000 farm workers and to pay $63 million in civil money penalties for violations. The report also found that over the past 15 years, agriculture accounted for 7% of all federal wage and hour investigations and 3% of the violations found.

According to the report, "farm labor contractors—nonfarm employers acting as staffing firms for farm employers—were the most egregious violators between 2005 to 2019. These employers represent 14% of agricultural employment nationwide but accounted for 24% of all agricultural violations from 2005 to 2019. Farm labor contractors also represented a higher share of agricultural violations than their share of employment in the two major farm labor states, California and Florida—where they accounted for approximately half of all violations over the 2005–2019 period. Farmworkers who are employed by farm labor contractors are more likely to suffer wage and hour violations than those who are hired directly by farms."

Farm labor contractors. A farm labor contractor (FLC) is a person who, for a fee, employs people to perform work connected to the production of farm products under the direction of a third person. An FLC is also any person who recruits, supplies, or hires workers on behalf of someone engaged in the production of farm products and, for a fee, provides board, lodging, or transportation for those workers, or supervises, times, checks, counts, weighs, or otherwise directs or measures their work, or disburses wage payments to these persons. According to the California Farm Labor Contractor Association, FLCs account for over 40% of California's agricultural labor force, representing the employment of over 360,000 California farm workers.

In California, FLCs must meet the following conditions in order to obtain or renew a license from the Labor Commissioner's Office:

- submit a written application,
- deposit a surety bond based on the size of the person's annual payroll for all employees,
- pay a $600 license fee,
- take a written exam demonstrating an essential degree of knowledge of the current laws and regulations around FLCs for the safety and protection of farmers, farmworkers, and the public, including the identification and prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace,

- register as an FLC and their employees must register as an FLC employee, pursuant to the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act[3] when registration is required by federal law,

- provide a written statement, attesting that the person's supervisorial employees has been trained on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace, and that all new nonsupervisorial employees, including agricultural employees, have been trained at the time of hire, and that all nonsupervisorial employees, including agricultural employees, have been trained at least once every two years in identifying, preventing, and reporting sexual harassment in the workplace.

FLC surety bonds. A surety bond is a written agreement, often required by law, to guarantee performance or payment of another company's obligation under a separate contract or compliance with a law or regulation.[4]

As mentioned above, an FLC must currently deposit with the Labor Commissioner a surety bond in an amount based on the size of the person's annual payroll for all employees, as follows:

- For payrolls up to $500,000, a $25,000 bond.

- For payrolls of $500,000 to $2,000,000, a $50,000 bond.

- For payrolls greater than $2,000,000, a $75,000 bond.

The condition of the bond states that the FLC will comply with all terms and provisions of the Labor Code governing FLCs and will pay for all damages and any other monetary relief awarded because of a violation of this code. The bond is also payable for interest on wages and for any damages arising from violation of orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, and for any other monetary relief awarded to an agricultural worker because of a violation of the Labor Code.

This bill, AB 2227, increases the amount of the surety bond the FLC must deposit with the Labor Commissioner's office, as follows:

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[3] 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1801 et seq

[4] "What is a Surety Bond? The Surety & Fidelity Association of America, **https://surety.org/surety-fidelity/what-is-surety/**

Existing law:	Proposed AB 2227:
For payrolls up to $500,000 = a $25,000 bond.	For payrolls up to $500,000 = a **$50,000** bond.
For payrolls of $500,000 to $2,000,000 = a $50,000 bond.	For payrolls of $500,000 to $2,000,000 = a **$100,000** bond.
For payrolls greater than $2,000,000 = a $75,000 bond.	For payrolls greater than $2,000,000 = a $**150,000** bond.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1362 (Kalra, Chapter 190, Statutes of 2025) beginning on July 1, 2027, extends the foreign labor contractor registration requirements and oversight under the Labor Commissioner to all agricultural workers under the H-2A visa program, as specified, and requires DIR to conduct a study on how to expand the existing law to other temporary work visas.

AB 364 (Rodriguez, 2022, Vetoed) was identical to this AB 1362, but did not include findings and declarations. *This bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom*.

AB 1913 (Kalra, 2018) was identical to AB 364. *This bill failed passage on the Assembly floor.*

SB 477 (Steinberg, Chapter 711, Statutes of 2014) established a registration and oversight process for foreign labor contractors with the Labor Commissioner, including enumerated protections for temporary foreign workers who are recruited to work in California.

SB 516 (Steinberg, 2013, Vetoed) was nearly identical to SB 477, but it specified a contractor registration fee of $500. *This bill was vetoed by Governor Brown*.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- This bill could potentially result in costs to the Department of Industrial Relations in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

- The bill could result in increased penalty revenue to the State. The magnitude is unknown.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Farmworker Coalition (Co-Source)
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (Co-Source)
Acevedo Media LLC
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement
California Domestic Workers Coalition
California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) Action
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Food and Farming Network
California Food and Farming Network/California Alliance With Family Farmers
California Network for Immigrant and Worker Justice
CDP Rural Caucus
Center for Farmworker Families
Central California Environmental Justic Network (CCEJN)
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)
Centro Legal De LA Raza
Community Alliance With Family Farmers
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Equal Rights Advocates
Farm2people
Health in Partnership
Hijas Del Campo
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Legal Aid At Work
Lideres Campesinas
Los Angeles Food Policy Council
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
North Bay Jobs With Justice
Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network
San Diego Food System Alliance
Santa Clara County Wage Theft Coalition
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Todec Legal Center
Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)
Worksafe

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Avocado Commission
California Citrus Mutual
California Farm Bureau
California Farm Labor Contractor Association
California Strawberry Commission
California Tomato Growers Association
California Walnut Commission
Grower-shipper Association of Central California
Nisei Farmers League
UnitedAg
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Western Growers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the co-sponsors of this bill, the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and the California Farmworker Coalition: "Farm labor contractors (FLC), who recruit, hire, and employ farmworkers on behalf of growers and farm owners, are the fastest-growing segment of farm employment in California. FLCs are responsible for paying wages and ensuring workers' labor rights—yet they are also the worst violators of those rights, accounting for one-half of all federal wage and hour violations detected in California agriculture. By inserting a middleman between growers and workers, the FLC model distances growers from employer responsibility while leaving workers deeply vulnerable to abuse. Because of the prevalence of labor violations, the state requires FLCs to purchase a surety bond as a condition of licensure. This bond is meant to function as a financial backstop—allowing workers to access funds to compensate for stolen wages or fines. However, the current system fails workers in multiple critical ways:

- Workers cannot access the bond in a timely manner–or at all. Bond companies typically require a court judgment or Labor Commissioner decision before releasing funds. These processes can take two or more years–or may never come to completion–when employers refuse to cooperate, fail to appear at hearings, or drag out proceedings until responsible parties disappear.

- Workers don't know the bond exists. Even when workers successfully navigate these long processes, they are rarely informed of the bond's

existence, and detailed information about which surety company holds an FLC's bond requires a Public Records Act Request and further waiting.

- Bond amounts are far too small. The current bond ranges from $25,000–$75,000— wholly inadequate when multiple workers' wages are stolen by the same employer.

AB 2227 will take meaningful steps to reform the surety bond system for farm labor contractors to ensure stronger recovery rights for farmworkers."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition of agricultural employer associations, including the California Farm Labor Contractor Association, write in an oppose unless amended position: " [T]he bill proposes to require that the Labor Commissioner put every FLC's bond information on the public FLC license database. While this may not seem inherently problematic, it raises questions as to the purpose of the California Department of Industrial Relations incurring additional costs, time, and resources to update the system. If the intent is for employees to file claims directly with the bond company instead of first going through the process of filing a claim with the Labor Commissioner, this is extremely problematic. If employees first go directly to the bond company, this will result in a lot of confusion for employees as the bond company would need to redirect that employee back to the Labor Commissioner to investigate and engage in enforcement as required under existing law. If the intent is for the bond company to serve as the trier of fact, this is even worse. Bond companies are not equipped for this and are the wrong entity to determine whether there is a valid wage claim; this is and should be the purview of the Labor Commissioner.

We agree the Labor Commissioner should share information regarding the FLC bond with relevant parties if an employer fails to make whole an employee after the claim has been adjudicated and all due process regarding notification, appeals, etc. has been respected. Furthermore we would encourage the Labor Commissioner to use efficient and direct methods to communicate the information (avoiding an expensive system overhaul of the FLC licensing database)."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 51-20, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez,

Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Ávila Farías, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Bains, Lackey, Pacheco, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Soria, Valencia

Prepared by: Jazmin Marroquin / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/17/26 10:13:56

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2231
Author: Ahrens (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-1, 5/11/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: hospital projects

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes expedited administrative and judicial review procedures under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for an "environmental leadership hospital campus project" in the city of Santa Clara, requiring the courts to resolve lawsuits within 270 days, to the extent feasible.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 narrow the scope of environmental leadership hospital campus projects eligible for CEQA judicial streamlining to those in the city of Santa Clara (removing those in the city of Emeryville), strike the provision requiring a health impact reviewed by the Attorney General, and make changes to the labor criteria for environmental leadership hospital campus projects.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes CEQA, which requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project to prepare a negative declaration (ND), mitigated negative declaration (MND), or environmental impact report (EIR) for the project, unless the project is exempt from CEQA. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §21000 et seq.). If a project may have a significant effect on the environment, the lead agency must prepare a draft EIR. (CEQA Guidelines §15064(a)(1), (f)(1))

2) Authorizes judicial review of CEQA actions taken by public agencies, following the agency's decision to carry out or approve the project. Challenges alleging improper determination that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, or alleging an EIR does not comply with CEQA, must be filed in the superior court within 30 days of filing of the notice of approval. The courts are required to give CEQA actions preference over all other civil actions. Requires the court to regulate the briefing schedule so that, to the extent feasible, hearings commence within one year of the filing of the appeal. Requires the plaintiff to request a hearing within 90 days of filing the petition. Requires the court to establish a briefing schedule and a hearing date, requires briefing to be completed within 90 days of the plaintiff's request for hearing, and requires the hearing, to the extent feasible, to be held within 30 days thereafter. (PRC 21167 *et seq*).

3) Established the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011 (AB 900, Buchanan, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2011), which established accelerated CEQA administrative and judicial review procedures for an "environmental leadership" project. The Act was later extended and modified in 2021 to include infrastructure projects for clean energy, transportation, and water (SB 7, Atkins, Chapter 19, Statutes of 2021). (PRC §21178 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Requires the city council of the City of Santa Clara, as the lead agency for the project in question, to certify an environmental leadership hospital campus project (as defined) for streamlining pursuant to this bill if the city council finds that numerous specified environmental, labor, and other conditions will be met, including that:

    a) The project applicant agrees to pay the costs of the trial court and the court of appeal in hearing and deciding any case subject to this bill, including payment of the costs for the appointment of a special master if deemed appropriate by the court, as specified;

b) The project applicant agrees to pay the costs of preparing the record of proceedings for the project concurrent with review and consideration of the project, as specified;

c) The project is on an infill site, as defined;

d) The project will result in an investment of at least one billion dollars ($1,000,000,000) in California upon completion of the construction and generate at least 500 construction jobs;

e) The project creates high-wage, highly skilled jobs that pay prevailing wages and living wages, employs a skilled and trained workforce;

f) The project will not result in any net additional greenhouse gas emissions, and at least 50% of reductions shall be local or within the Bay Area Air Quality Management District;

g) The project has a community benefits agreement that may include additional mitigation measures such as being fully electric, using carbon free energy sources, providing zero-emission vehicle charging stations, or improving public transportation;

h) The project will be low vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (have a per capita VMT at least 15% lower than comparable development);

i) The project will obtain certification as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold standard or better; and

j) The project applicant will meet labor criteria, including:

    i) ensure that the prevailing wage requirement is included in all contracts for the performance of work, in certain criteria

    ii) require in all contracts for the performance of work that every contractor and subcontractor at every tier will individually use a skilled and trained workforce to complete the project, and every contractor and subcontractor shall use a skilled and trained workforce to complete the project

2) Specifies that the project applicant must agree to meet all the mitigation requirements, and will submit an annual report on the implementation of the environmental mitigation measures required by the section to the lead agency

which will be responsible for enforcing and monitoring those mitigation measures.

3) Establishes the following definitions:

   a) "Hospital project" means a project for the construction and operation of a hospital licensed under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1250) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, including both outpatient clinics and associated parking structures;

   b) "Jobs that pay prevailing wages" means that all construction workers employed in the execution of the project will receive at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for the type of work and geographic area, as determined by the Director of Industrial Relations. If the project is certified for an exemption, the project applicant shall include this requirement in all contracts for the performance of the work; and

   c) "Project labor agreement" has the same meaning as set forth in Section 158(f) of Title 29 of the United States Code.

   d) "Skilled and trained workforce" has the same meaning as provided in Chapter 2.9 (commencing with Section 2600) of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code.

Background

A, B, C's of CEQA. CEQA is an environmental planning law designed to (a) make government agencies and the public aware of the environmental impacts of a proposed project, (b) ensure the public can take part in the review process, and (c) identify and implement measures to mitigate or eliminate any negative impact the project may have on the environment.

CEQA is enforced by civil lawsuits that can challenge any project's environmental review, and it is the only state environmental law that allows civil suits. Under CEQA, projects (unless they have a specific exemption) must undergo environmental analysis. This process starts with an initial study which determines what level of further environmental review is needed for a given project. If a project has no significant effects on the environment, or if those effects can be fully mitigated, the project can move forward with a negative declaration (ND) or mitigated negative declaration (MND). If the initial study finds the project has potential significant effects on the environment, then a full EIR is conducted. An EIR provides a thorough environmental review of a proposed project, analyzing the significant direct and indirect environmental impacts of a proposed project. The

EIR also includes proposed mitigation measures for any significant effects that it identifies and considers alternatives to the proposed project.

Provisions to expedite CEQA. Under CEQA, state and local agencies must complete and adopt a ND in 180 days, and certify an EIR within a year. If there is a compelling circumstance to extend this timeline, agencies may take longer, but only if the project applicant consents. After the environmental review is completed, the case may be subject to litigation. Judicial Council asserts that it takes over six months just for a CEQA case to get a hearing, let alone reach a decision.

To help speed CEQA cases through the court system, current law provides several measures to prioritize CEQA cases and speed up judicial review, including:

a) The Superior Court and the Court of Appeal must give CEQA lawsuits preference over all other civil actions;

b) If feasible, the Court of Appeal must hear a CEQA appeal within one year of filing;

c) Discovery is generally not allowed, as CEQA cases are generally restricted to review of the record; and

d) Counties with a population of over 200,000 must designate one or more judges to develop expertise on CEQA and hear CEQA cases.

CEQA Administrative and Judicial Streamlining. The Legislature has developed streamlining measures to speed CEQA lawsuits against specified projects through the courts. In current law, CEQA streamlining entails both judicial and administrative streamlining. Judicial streamlining requires that a CEQA lawsuit be heard in 270 days, including all appeals, as feasible. Administrative streamlining requires projects to prepare the administrative record, the comprehensive document at the heart of a CEQA case, at the same time as the environmental review documents are prepared. Preparing these documents concurrently, instead of sequentially, saves time if there is a lawsuit. These streamlining measures shorten what is potentially the lengthiest portion of the CEQA process—litigation—while retaining the full environmental review and public engagement offered under CEQA.

In 2011, the Legislature passed the first CEQA streamlining certification program with the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act (Leadership Act), which created CEQA streamlining for residential, retail, commercial, sports, and recreational use projects that were certified as Environmental Leadership Development Projects (ELDP) by the Governor (AB

900, Buchanan, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2011). The ELDP program was further extended and modified in 2021 with (SB 7, Atkins, Chapter 19, Statutes of 2021) and in 2023, The Legislature expanded these same streamlining provisions for certain energy, transportation, and water infrastructure projects (SB 149, Caballero, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023).

Environmental Leadership Development Programs. While only a small number of projects are challenged under CEQA (e.g. 1.05% of projects that went through CEQA in 2022-2023 were challenged[1]), very environmentally impactful and controversial projects are more likely to face a lawsuit. The Legislature has developed streamlining measures to speed CEQA lawsuits against specified, often large-scale and high-profile, projects through the courts.

In current law, this CEQA streamlining entails both judicial and administrative streamlining. Judicial streamlining requires that a CEQA lawsuit be heard in 270 days, including all appeals, as feasible. Administrative streamlining requires projects to prepare the administrative record, the comprehensive document at the heart of a CEQA case, at the same time as the environmental review documents are prepared. Preparing these documents concurrently, instead of sequentially, saves time if there is a lawsuit. These streamlining measures shorten what is potentially the lengthiest portion of the CEQA process—litigation—while retaining the full environmental review and public engagement offered under CEQA.

In 2011, the Legislature passed the first CEQA streamlining certification program with the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act (Leadership Act), which created CEQA streamlining for residential, retail, commercial, sports, and recreational use projects that were certified as Environmental Leadership Development Projects (ELDP) by the Governor (AB 900, Buchanan, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2011). The ELDP program was further extended and modified in 2021 with (SB 7, Atkins, Chapter 19, Statutes of 2021).

In 2023, The Legislature expanded these same streamlining provisions for certain energy, transportation, and water infrastructure projects (SB 149, Caballero, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023).

The specific criteria that projects must meet to be eligible for CEQA streamlining varies by project and process, but all are intended to ensure that projects meet high environmental and labor standards. In current law, environmental criteria for streamlining includes requirements such as achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification and being greenhouse gas

[1] CEQA for the Future Protecting Land, People, & Climate. Smith-Heimer and Hitchcock, Dec 2025.

neutral. SB 149 (Caballero, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2023) also includes a specific equity provision which requires that projects both minimize significant environmental impacts in disadvantaged communities and take mitigation measures that directly benefit the affected community. In offering CEQA streamlining for projects that meet these high standards, California has been able to promote projects that align with the State's environmental, climate, and labor goals.

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "AB 2231 is a judicial streamlining bill that helps ensure critical hospital projects can move forward without unnecessary delays and costly litigation. At a time when California faces growing health care demands and uncertainty in federal funding, we cannot afford to slow the construction of essential medical facilities in Santa Clara which will help expand access to emergency, inpatient, and specialty care for communities across the Bay Area."

What makes an environmental leader? This bill provides expedited judicial review for an "environmental leadership hospital campus project" (a term created in this bill) in the City of Santa Clara. What makes a project an environmental leader that should receive prioritized expedited judicial review, bumping it to the front of the line of cases to be heard in the event of a lawsuit? This bill adds some environmental criteria, including that the project does not result in net additional GHG emissions, and will be relatively low-VMT. It also offers some environmental guardrails by specifying that the project applicant will enter into a legally binding and enforceable community benefits agreement with the lead agency that may include specified measures in addition to any other mitigation measures required pursuant to CEQA. This is an important addition, since environmental projects can still have environmental impacts, and thus it is still important to provide additional tools for communities to advocate for measures to mitigate the impacts of projects on their communities, even when the projects are deemed environmental leaders. This bill also adds a process for accomplishing this goal by requiring that the applicant submit an annual report to the lead agency report on the mitigation measures they are taking to meet the eligibility criteria to be a leadership project.

Expedited Judicial Review tradeoffs. Expedited judicial review entails tradeoffs, including potentially burdening the courts and affecting access to justice for other litigants. As described above, the Legislature has continually expanded projects that qualify for expedited judicial review under CEQA. Additionally, the

Legislature has begun applying expedited judicial review to other areas of the law as well. For example, SB 808 (Caballero, Chapter 527, Statutes of 2025) established an expedited writ of mandate procedure for judicial review of a local agency decision denying approval of a housing development project, as defined.[2] This Committee will be considering three CEQA expedited judicial review bills this legislative session.

Under existing law, certain parties are entitled to calendar preference, including a party that is at least 70 years old and in ill health, a party in a personal injury or wrongful death matter who is under the age of 14, or a party that is unlikely to survive beyond another six months. (Code Civ. Proc. § 36). Additionally, certain actions receive calendar preference, including appeals in probate proceedings, contested election cases, and actions for libel or slander by a person who holds any elective public office or a candidate for any such office alleged to have occurred during the course of an election campaign. (Code Civ. Proc. § 44.) Additionally, existing law already provides that the superior court and appeals courts are to give CEQA lawsuits preference over all other civil actions. (Gov. Code § 21167.1(a).) These expedited CEQA judicial review bills taken as one-offs may not seem to cause a major concern for the courts and are intended to expedite beneficial development. However, when taken as a whole, these bills entail potential tradeoffs with respect to not only the sufficiency of environmental review, but increasing pressure on court dockets and access to justice for other litigants. These concerns have only been magnified by the judicial backlog arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.[3]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the assembly appropriations committee, this bill has "Potential cost pressure (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown amount to the courts to process and hear challenges to environmental reviews for environmental leadership hospital campus projects on an expedited timeline. Expedited cases generally create costs and staffing pressures on the courts, as each review typically requires a judicial officer, research attorneys, and staff. However, under existing rules of court (that Judicial Council may amend to reference the specific projects in

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[2] Dept. of Finance, Delta Conveyance Project, (updated 5/14/25), available at **https://trailerbill.dof.ca.gov/public/trailerBill/pdf/1263** (as of June 24, 2025).

[3] Joint Informational Hearing of Ass. and Sen. Comm. on Judiciary: *COVID and the Courts: Assessing the Impact on Access to Justice, Identifying Best Practices, and Plotting the Path Forward* (Feb. 23, 2021) Background Paper, **https://sjud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sjud.senate.ca.gov/files/background_paper_-_ajud_and_sjud_feb_23_2021_joint_informational_hearing_-_covid_and_the_courts.pdf**.

this bill), these reviews would be subject to a $180,000 filing fee. With this filing fee, Judicial Council does not anticipate increased costs as a result of this bill."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/23/2026)

Bay Area Council
California Chamber of Commerce
Civil Justice Association of California
Contra Costa County
Sutter Health

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/23/2026)

Judicial Council of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-1, 5/11/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Gallagher, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Soria

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 11:19:19

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2234
Author: Papan (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Menjivar
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: geothermal exploratory projects: geothermal technology pilot projects: Geologic Energy Management Division

SOURCE: Sonoma Clean Energy

DIGEST: This bill creates geothermal technology pilot projects composed of up to six wells, provides for a geothermal technology pilot project well to be within one-half mile of an existing geothermal well capable of producing the geothermal resource in commercial quantities if a written consent agreement meeting certain specifications is reached, requires the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a geothermal technology pilot project, and authorizes CalGEM to delegate its lead agency status to a county in certain circumstances, among other provisions, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes CalGEM within the Department of Conservation as the state's geothermal well regulator. The State Oil and Gas Supervisor (supervisor) leads CalGEM.

2) Proclaims that Californians have a direct and primary interest in the development of geothermal resources, and the state should exercise its power and jurisdiction to require that wells for the discovery and production of geothermal resources be drilled, operated, maintained and abandoned in such manner as to safeguard life, health, property, and the public welfare, and to encourage maximum economic recovery. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §3700)

3) Requires the supervisor to so supervise the drilling, operation, maintenance and abandonment of geothermal resources wells as to encourage the greatest economic recovery of geothermal resources, to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources, and to prevent damage to, and waste from, the underground geothermal deposits, and to prevent damage to underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes by reason of the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of geothermal resources wells. (PRC §3714)

4) Requires the supervisor to also supervise the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of wells so as to permit the owners or operators of such wells to utilize all methods and practices known to the industry for the purpose of increasing the ultimate recovery of geothermal resources, and to allow the operator to do what a prudent operator using reasonable diligence would do, as provided. (PRC §3715)

5) Requires an owner or operator before drilling or re-drilling, abandoning or deepening or altering the casing of a well to file with the supervisor or CalGEM district deputy a written notice of intention (NOI) to drill the well containing certain information and pay a fee. (PRC §3724)

6) Defines geothermal resources to mean the natural heat of the earth, the energy, in whatever form, below the surface of the earth present in, resulting, from, or created by, or which may be extracted from, such natural heat, and all minerals in solution or other products obtained from naturally heated fluids, brines, associated gases, and steam, in whatever form, below the surface of the earth,

but excluding oil, hydrocarbon gas, or other hydrocarbon substances. (PRC §6903)

7) Defines a geothermal exploratory project to be not more than six wells and for the purpose of evaluating the presence and characteristics of geothermal resources prior to starting a geothermal field development project. For purposes of preparing an environmental document the environmental impacts shall be limited to the proposed drill sites, the proposed wells, and any roads or other facilities that may be required before the exploratory wells can be drilled. Wells included within a geothermal exploratory project must be located at least one-half mile from geothermal development wells which are capable of producing geothermal resources in commercial quantities. Application requirements include a narrative description including the probable short-term and long-term impacts of the project, and acceptable mitigation measures. (see PRC §21065.6; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §§1680 *et seq*.)

8) CEQA requires a lead agency to spearhead an environmental impact report (EIR) for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare an negative declaration (ND) for a project that will have no significant effects on the environment, or a mitigated negative declaration (MND) for projects that have no significant effects after mitigation. (PRC §§21000 *et seq*.)

9) Specifies that CalGEM is the default lead agency for geothermal exploratory projects, but that CalGEM can delegate its lead agency responsibility to a county that has adopted a geothermal element in its general plan. In addition, at the request of an applicant, the county in which a geothermal exploratory project is located shall assume responsibilities of the lead agency, regardless of whether or not the county has a geothermal element. In this case, the county and CalGEM confer regarding necessary information that should be included in the environmental review for the project to facilitate CalGEM's exercise of its authority as a responsible agency. (PRC §3715.5)

10) Defines "geothermal field development project" as a development project composed of geothermal wells, resource transportation lines, production equipment, roads, and other facilities which are necessary to supply geothermal energy to any particular heat utilization equipment for its productive life, all within an area delineated by the applicant. (Government Code §65928.5)

This bill:

1) Defines “geothermal technology pilot project” to mean a project composed of not more than six wells and associated drilling and testing equipment, including equipment and activities necessary to establish interconnectivity between wells and reservoirs, to connect geothermal reservoirs whose permeability or capacity to allow the flow of geothermal fluids has been increased from its natural or original state through stimulation, horizontal drilling, or the use of closed-loop configurations, for the chief and original purpose of confirming the viability of those techniques or technologies within that resource.

2) Requires CalGEM to be the lead agency under CEQA for geothermal technology pilot projects, and adds geothermal technology pilot projects to the existing ability of CalGEM to delegate its lead agency responsibility for geothermal exploratory projects to a county, as provided.

3) Requires the owner or operator of a well that is part of a geothermal technology pilot project to file with the supervisor a written NOI to commence drilling before commencing drilling, deepening, or redrilling, as specified.

    a) If the NOI is for a well that is part of a geothermal technology pilot project and the well is located within one-half mile of an existing geothermal well capable of producing geothermal resources in commercial quantities, the NOI shall include a written consent agreement, as provided. Requires the written consent agreement to meet all of the following requirements:

        i) Requires the written consent agreement to be executed by a responsible officer of the owner or operator of the existing well, or by a responsible office of both the owner or operator if the owner or operator are different.

        ii) Authorizes the owner or operator of the existing geothermal well capable of producing in commercial quantities to require provisions in the agreement requiring the owner or operator of the geothermal technology pilot project well to undertake certain measures – such as ongoing monitoring of the resource, demonstration that the geothermal technology pilot project will not impose any undue harm to the productive capability of any geothermal project operating under a powerplant license, and indemnification by the geothermal technology pilot project owner and operator for all costs associated with safeguarding existing geothermal resources, including a bond or escrow fund sufficient to cover any required remediation, compensation, or infrastructure repair, among others.

iii) Requires the written consent agreement to provide that either party may bring an appropriate civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the written consent agreement as a contract, and shall not limit the availability to either party of any remedy at law or in equity otherwise available.

4) Provides that no reimbursement is required to local agencies and school districts for certain state-mandated costs, as specified. Makes various minor, technical and conforming changes to statute.

[NOTE: For additional information regarding this bill, see the Senate Environmental Quality, and Natural Resources and Water Committees' analyses.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing costs likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund) for the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to receive notices of intention (NOIs) for pilot-project wells, review consent agreements as part of NOI completeness, serve as CEQA lead agency for geothermal technology pilot projects, among other things.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Sonoma Clean Energy (source)
California Resources Corporation
San Jose Clean Energy
The Nature Conservancy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Department of Finance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "California has a massive underground network of untapped geothermal energy. Innovations like closed-loop and enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) have the potential to generate many gigawatts more energy than previous technologies, as conventional geothermal developers are limited by their need for naturally occurring groundwater."

"However, the outdated statutory definition of geothermal exploratory projects restricts the deployment of these new technologies. AB 2234 will modernize the

definition of geothermal projects by updating the application of the half-mile restriction and recognizing that all equipment and infrastructure necessary for modern development should be considered part of a project, not separate. By revising the geothermal exploratory project definition, AB 2234 can expand access to firm, clean energy and signal that California is open for exploration."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Department of Finance, writing in opposition to a previous version of the bill notes: "Finance is opposed to this bill because it results in General Fund impacts not included in the 2026 Budget Act."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/17/26 19:20:50

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2244
Author: Gabriel (D), et al.
Amended: 8/24/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Caballero

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Non-Ultraprocessed Certified food standard

SOURCE: Environmental Working Group

DIGEST: This bill establishes a process for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to accredit certification agents that can certify food products as "Non-Ultraprocessed Certified" (Non-UPF Certified), and requires CDPH to create a standardized seal for these certified food products. Requires grocery stores with more than $10 million in gross annual sales to make at least three or more items that are Non-UPF Certified clearly identifiable, with regard to their display in the grocery store, if the grocery store sells more than 25 Non-UPF Certified items.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/24/26 incorporate technical assistance from the CDPH to address implementation concerns and to permit CDPH to establish fees

for accreditation agents and certification of food products, clarify what is eligible for the Non-UPF label, and clarify that minimarts, including gas station food marts, are not considered grocery stores for purposes of this bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "ultraprocessed food (UPF)," for purposes of food intended to be served or sold in schools, as any food or beverage that contains a substance that has one of eight FDA-defined technical effects, as specified, and that has either higher amounts of saturated fat, sodium, or added sugar, or contains a nonnutritive sweetener or other sugar substitute, as specified. Excludes certain food products from this definition, including Class 1 milk, alcoholic beverages, medical foods, and infant formula. [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §104661]

2) Defines "UPFs of concern," for purposes of food intended to be served or sold in schools, as a food product that is a UPF, and that is determined by regulations adopted by CDPH to be of concern, based on specified factors, including whether it contains a substance linked to health harms or adverse health consequences. Requires these regulations to be adopted by June 1, 2028. [HSC §104662(a)(2)]

3) Defines "restricted school foods," for purposes of food intended to be served or sold in schools, as a food or beverage that contains a substance that has one of the eight United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-defined technical effects but does not meet the definition of a UPF because it is not high in fat, sodium, or added sugar, but is restricted from being sold in schools because the it has been determined by regulations adopted by CDPH to be of concern. Requires these regulations to be adopted by June 1, 2028. [HSC §104662(a)(1)]

4) Requires, no later than July 1, 2029, schools to begin to phase out UPFs of concern and restricted school foods, and by July 1, 2032, prohibits a vendor from offering UPFs of concern or restricted school foods to a school. [HSC §104664]

This bill:

1) Requires CDPH, no later than June 1, 2029, to accredit certification agents that can certify food products as "Non-Ultraprocessed Certified" (Non-UPF Certified) pursuant to this bill.

2) Prohibits an accredited certification agent from certifying a product as Non-UPF Certified if the food product is any of the following:
   a) Meets the additive criteria for UPF, as defined in existing law;
   b) Classified as a UPF of concern, as defined in existing law; or,
   c) Classified as a restricted school food, as defined in existing law.

3) Requires a product to be recertified as Non-UPF Certified at least every three years.

4) Requires a manufacturer, if a product using the Non-UPF Certified seal is reformulated, to seek recertification prior to using the seal on the reformulated product.

5) Requires CDPH to maintain a data system for Non-UPF food products.

6) Requires CDPH to create a standardized seal that is permitted to incorporate both of the following:
   a) The phrase "Non-Ultraprocessed Certified Food Standard" or Non-UPF Certified" and,
   b) Images and themes association with California and health, nutritious whole foods.

7) Restricts the use of the Non-UPF Certified seal on a product to only those products that have been certified by an accredited certification agent.

8) Permits the Non-UPF Certified seal to be placed on the principal display panel, the information panel, or elsewhere on the package, provided that the seal does not obscure other required information, such as the nutrition facts panel or the statement of identity.

9) Requires an accredited certification agent to do all of the following:
   a) Register with CDPH on a form provided by CDPH;
   b) Complete CDPH required accreditation certification agency training;
   c) Annually renew the accreditation agent status, unless the certification agent is no longer engaged in certifying products under this bill; and,
   d) Provide a list to CDPH of all the products certified by the accredited certification agent.

10) Requires any registration information submitted by an accredited certification agent to CDPH to be made available to the public for inspection and copying.

11) Requires an accredited certification agent to report all of the following information to CDPH for each food product certified as Non-UPF: food product

name, food product ingredients, food product nutrition facts, food product manufacturer and brand, Global Trade Item Number and Universal Product Code, date certified, and other information required by CDPH.

12) Requires an accredited certification agent that certifies Non-UPF Certified products to immediately make the following records available for inspection by CDPH, or provide copies within three business days of a request by CDPH, or within a reasonable time exceeding three business days as determined by CDPH:
   a) Records obtained for certification of a food product; and,
   b) Records created by the accredited certification agent regarding applications for certification of a product.

13) Permits CDPH to audit the accredited certification agent's certification procedures and records at any time, but requires any records of the accredited certification agent not otherwise required to be disclosed to be kept confidential by CDPH.

14) Requires CDPH to maintain a webpage that lists all of the products currently certified as Non-UPF Certified as reported by the accredited certification agent.

15) Permits CDPH to adopt any regulations as are reasonably necessary to assist in the implementation of, or to make more specific, the provisions of this bill related to the certification of Non-UPF foods.

16) Permits CDPH to establish fees for the registration and renewal of accredited certification agents and certification of food products. Establishes the Public Health Food and Nutrition Education Fund for purposes of implementing this bill, and requires fees to be deposited in this account, which is subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

17) Deems the following actions as unlawful:
   a) For a person to certify products as Non-UPF Certified unless duly registered as an accredited certification agent;
   b) For a person to willfully make a false statement or representation, or knowingly fail to disclose a fact required to be disclosed, in registration as an accredited certification agent;
   c) For a person to willfully make a false statement or representation, or knowingly fail to disclose a fact required to be disclose to an accredited certification agent; and,

d) For a person to use the Non-UPF Certified seal on a product that does not meet the requirements of this bill.

18) Permits a person who engages in the misuse of the Non-UPF Certified seal to be enjoined in a court by any of the following:
   a) CDPH;
   b) The Attorney General, county counsel, city attorney, or city prosecutor in a city having a full-time city prosecutor; or,
   c) A consumer, business entity, or non-profit organization.

19) Specifies that a violation of the above provisions is not subject to existing criminal penalties for violations of the Sherman Law.

20) Requires a grocery store, as defined in existing law, with gross annual store sales of more than $10 million dollars, to make clearly identifiable at least three or more items that are Non-UPF Certified if the food facility offers for sale more than 25 Non-UPF Certified items.

21) Defines "clearly identifiable," for purposes of the requirement in 17) above, as a manner of offering a product for sale on a display unit or within a retail setting that allows a reasonable consumer to readily distinguish the product from other products, including through physical separation, signage, or other visual cues.

22) Permits a grocery store that fails to meet the requirement in 17) above to be enjoined in court by the Attorney General, county counsel, city attorney, or city prosecutor in a city having a full-time city prosecutor. Specifies that this violation is not subject to existing criminal penalties for violations of the California Retail Food Code.

23) Deems a grocery store to be in compliance with the requirement in 17) above if it demonstrates that it has made a good faith effort to comply and has implemented reasonable policies, procedures, or employee training designed to achieve compliance. Prohibits de minimis or isolated instances of noncompliance that occur despite good faith efforts, from constituting a violation of the requirement.

24) Exclude the following from being considered a "grocery store" for purposes of this bill: an establishment primarily engaged in retailing a limited line of groceries such as a convenience store or food mart, including an establishment operating fuel pumps.

25) Sunsets the provisions of this bill relating to grocery stores making certified products "clearly identifiable" on January 1, 2040.

Background

The NOVA classification system and the definition of UPF. The NOVA classification, also referred to as Nova, comes from the Portuguese title of the article that was originally published in 2009 by a researcher in Brazil: "A new classification of foods." As it has evolved since originally formulated, NOVA classifies foods into four groups:

- *Group 1: unprocessed or minimally processed foods.* Minimally processed foods are natural foods (from plants, or from animals, including muscle, eggs, and milk) that are altered by processes that include removal of inedible or unwanted parts; and drying, crushing, grinding, fractioning, filtering, roasting, boiling, non-alcoholic fermentation, pasteurization, refrigeration, chilling, freezing, placing in containers, and vacuum packaging. These processes are designed to preserve natural foods, make them suitable for storing, or make them safe or edible or more pleasant to the consumer.

- *Group 2: processed culinary ingredients.* Processed culinary ingredients such as oils, butter, sugar and salt, are substances derived from Group 1 foods or from nature by processes that include pressing, refining, grinding, milling, and drying. The purpose of such processes is to make durable products that are suitable for use in home and restaurant kitchens to prepare, season, and cook Group 1 foods. They are not meant to be consumed by themselves, and are normally used in combination with Group 1 foods to make freshly prepared drinks, dishes and meals.

- *Group 3: processed foods.* Processed foods, such as bottled vegetables, canned fish, fruits in syrup, cheeses, and freshly made breads, are made by adding salt, oil, sugar, or other substances from Group 2 to Group 1 foods. Processes include various preservation or cooking methods, and, in the case of breads and cheese, non-alcoholic fermentation. Most processed foods have two or three ingredients, and are recognizable as modified versions of Group 1 foods. They are edible by themselves, or more usually, in combination with other foods.

- *Group 4: UPFs.* UPFs, such as soft drinks, sweet or savory packaged snacks, reconstituted meat products, and pre-prepared frozen dishes, are not modified foods but formulations made mostly or entirely from substances derived from foods and additives, with little, if any, intact Group 1 food. Ingredients of these

> formulations usually includes those also used in processed foods, such as sugars, oils, fats, or salt, but also include other sources of energy and nutrients not normally used in culinary preparations. Some of these are directly extracted from foods, such as casein, lactose, whey, and gluten. Many are derived from further processing of food constituents, such as hydrogenated or interesterified oils, hydrolysed proteins, soy protein isolate, maltodextrin, invert sugar, and high-fructose corn syrup. Additives in UPF include some used in processed foods, such as preservatives, antioxidants and stabilizers. Classes of additives found only in UPF products include those used to imitate or enhance the sensory qualities of foods or to disguise unpalatable aspects of the final product. These additives include dyes and other colors, color stabilizers, flavors, flavor enhancers, non-sugar sweeteners, and processing aids such as carbonating, firming, bulking, and anti-bulking, de-foaming, anti-caking and glazing agents, emulsifiers, sequestrants and humectants.

AB 1264 (Gabriel, Chapter 467, Statutes of 2025) establishes a multi-pronged definition to categorize whether foods intended to be sold or served in schools are UPF. First, it uses the FDA's Substances Added to Food database (which was previously known as Everything Added to Foods in the United States, or EAFUS). This is a database of additives, including color additives, flavoring substances, and other ingredients added to food to achieve certain "technical effects." Federal regulations list 32 different physical or technical effects that a food ingredient or additive can have, including antioxidants or antimicrobial agents used to preserve food, drying agents to maintain an environment of low moisture, enzymes to improve food processing, leavening agents, lubricants and release agents to prevent food from sticking to food contact surfaces, etc. The definition of UPF includes eight of these technical effects that are considered by the proponents of AB 1264 and this bill as associated with UPF – technical effects that are for flavoring or coloring effects, for example, or emulsifiers and thickeners.

If a food product meets the first test of having an additive with one of the eight technical effects, it moves on to the second prong: whether it is <u>either</u> high in saturated fat, sodium, or added sugar, <u>or</u> it contains a nonnutritive sweetener or one of eleven other substances that are used as sugar replacements. These eleven substances, such as xylitol, D-sorbitol, and isomalt, are sugar alcohols or other substances that do not meet the definition of nonnutritive sweeteners because they still contain some calories, but are used as sugar substitutes.

Restricted school foods will be determined at a later date by a regulatory process. In addition to foods designated as UPF, this bill also prohibits products from being Non-UPF Certified if they are "restricted school foods." (This bill also prohibits

certification of "UPFs of concern" from AB 1264, but UPFs of concern already come from the universe of UPFs.) Restricted school foods were included in AB 1264 last year to capture foods that have one or more of the additives in the first prong of the definition of UPF, but do not meet the "high-in saturated fat, sodium, or added sugar" of the second prong of the definition, and do not have a nonnutritive sweetener or other sugar substitute. The purpose of adding the category of "restricted school foods" was to give CDPH the ability to restrict a food that has all the characteristics of a UPF of concern, including a risk of adverse health consequences, etc., but was not high in saturated fat, sodium, or added sugar. Unlike the definition of UPF, which is a statutory definition, the list of restricted school foods will be determined pursuant to regulations adopted by CDPH, just like the "UPFs of concern" targeted by AB 1264.

Because the definition of UPF is statutory, the Non-UPF certification process can start without waiting for regulations. However, it is possible a product could be approved as "Non-UPF Certified," and then later lose this eligibility as a result of the product being included in the list of restricted school foods.

Based on certified organic program. The author states that this bill is modeled on the California Organic program. Under the California Organic Food and Farming Act, any certification agency that certifies products in California sold as organic is required to register with the Department of Agriculture, including paying an annual registration fee. Similar to this bill, a certification agency that certifies organic products is required to make records available for inspection. All products sold as organic in California are required to be certified by an accredited certifying agent.

Other Non-UPF programs. There are at least two existing programs that provide seals for food products to indicate that the product is "non-UPF:" Non-UPF Verified, which is a project under the umbrella of the Non-GMO Project and its Food Integrity Collective; and, WISEcode Non-UPF Shield.

Non-UPF Verified. The Non-GMO Project started in 2007, and in 2025 launched the Non-UPF Verified program. They published their Non-UPF Standard on January 21, 2026, which is a 30 page document detailing standard criteria and requirements for verification as Non-UPF Verified. This standard includes processing methods, which is something that the definition of UPF in California law used by this bill does not cover. There is some overlap in the list of ingredients that would exclude a product from being considered Non-UPF, such as non-nutrititive sweeteners, and thickeners and texturizers, but also some prohibited products not captured by this bill, such as certain refined oils.

WISEcode. On May 4, 2026, WISEcode launched "Non-UPF Shield," a verification program for brands, and a redesigned WISE Code UPF Detector mobile app. Both are powered by an artificial intelligence classification system that relies on an ingredient database and a proprietary automated review system.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

> This bill would establish a Non-UPF seal that food manufacturers could place on products that meet clear standards for not being ultra-processed. Modeled after the "USDA Organic" label, the seal would provide consumers with a simple, trustworthy way to identify healthier options with a quick glance. Additionally, the bill would require grocery stores in California to feature products bearing the seal in a display, thereby making it easier for busy families to locate healthier foods quickly and conveniently. Ultimately, parents shouldn't need a Ph.D. to understand what they're feeding their kids, and this new law will empower consumers with clear, trustworthy information and make it easier for them to find foods that are free from harmful additives.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1264 (Gabriel, Chapter 467, Statutes of 2025) enacts the Real Food, Healthy Kids Act to reduce the consumption of UPFs by California children by: defining UPFs intended to be sold or served in schools; establishing a regulatory process for CDPH to determine which UPFs are of concern by June 1, 2028; and, requiring these UPFs of concern to be phased out of schools until they are prohibited from being offered to schools by vendors as of July 1, 2032, and prohibited from being served or sold in schools by July 1, 2035.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, for CDPH for state administration.

The California Department of Justice anticipates a minor fiscal impact to the department.

Unknown potential costs to local enforcement agencies related to requirements on grocery stores. Costs could be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Unknown, potential workload costs to the courts to adjudicate cases seeking injunctive relief (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to increase the amount appropriated for trial court operations.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Environmental Working Group (source)
A Voice for Choice Advocacy
Active San Gabriel Valley
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Nurses Association/California
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
California Democratic Party
California Grocers Association
California Medical Association
California Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice
California Podiatric Medical Association
Center for Ecoliteracy
Center for Environmental Health
Chef Ann Foundation
Children Now
Clean Earth 4 Kids
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation
Democrats of Rossmoor
Eat Real
Ecology Center
Educate. Advocate.
End Chronic Disease
Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxics Safety
Farm Fatales
Food & Water Watch
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Indivisible Marin

Mamavation - Non-toxic Products for Healthy Families
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Francisco Marin Medical Society
The Office of Kat Taylor
United Nurses Associations of California/union of Health Care Professionals
Wellness in the Schools, Inc.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

American Beverage Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Democratic Party
California League of Food Producers
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
Calorie Control Council
Civil Justice Association of California
Competere
Consumer Brands Association
Dairy Institute of California
Food Ingredient Safety Coalition
Non-GMO Project

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill is sponsored by the Environmental Working Group, and is joined in support by a large coalition. Supporters state that this bill builds on California's first-in-the-nation definition of UPFs and creates a voluntary Non-UPF Certified seal that gives consumers a clear, trusted way to identify healthier food options for their families. According to supporters, UPFs now make up more than half of all calories consumed by adults in the U.S., and nearly two-thirds of the calories consumed by children. Consumers want to make better choices, but they do not have practical information at the point of purchase. Supporters point to a 2025 national survey that found that 72% of Americans are trying to reduce their UPF intake, yet fewer than half could correctly identify common UPF products. A separate study of more than 50,000 products at Walmart, Target, and Whole Foods found that most offerings across all three stores fell in the UPF category. This bill creates a voluntary certification program administered through CDPH-accredited third-party agents, backed by a public product registry and enforceable by the Attorney General. No manufacturer is required to participate, and a requirement that the product display is clearly identifiable only applies to large retailers that carry more than 25 certified items. Unlike private certification programs that operate without government oversight, this bill establishes a clear, accountable, state-backed standard.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Consumer Brands Association, the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, the Food Ingredient Safety Coalition, and the Calorie Control Council submitted a joint letter of opposition, stating that this bill is premature, would create consumer confusion, and would distort the marketplace. This group notes this bill creates a state-backed Non-UPF Certified seal at a time when private certification already serves this purpose, pointing to the Non-UPF Program and WISEcode, which already certify Non-UPF foods nationwide. Consumers already encounter a wide range of certifications and claims in the marketplace, including California Grown, organic, non-GMO, and Fair Trade, many administered by nonprofit or independent third parties. California should not single out one processing-based standard, attach a California-branded seal to it, and imply a unique level of state endorsement. This group states that certification under this bill turns in part on whether a product is classified as a UPF of concern or a restricted school foods, terms that CDPH is not required to define by regulation until June 1, 2028, and has not even begun the rulemaking. These opponents also note that the definition this bill relies on were enacted for school nutrition, a narrow context never intended for the general food supply. Because that definition excluded alcoholic beverages from the definition of UPF, a spirit or flavored malt beverage could carry the states Non-UPF Certified seal, while a low-fat, low-calorie yogurt sweetened with a nonnutritive sweetener, or a packaged salad whose dressing pairs a common emulsifier with added sugar, could be denied it. The opponents state that this bill authorizes anyone to seek an injunction over an alleged misuse of the seal, and given the close similarity between this seal and the existing national Non-UPF seal, there is a meaningful risk of litigation arising from consumer confusion between the two. Finally, according to the opponents, the FDA and United States Department of Agriculture are actively developing a federal definition of UPF, and no single, universally accepted definition exists today. Because private programs are not codified in statue, they can adapt as federal guidance evolves. By contrast, anchoring a California seal to a state-specific definition would require legislative action to realign.

The California League of Food Producers, the California Chamber of Commerce, and the Dairy Institute of California also jointly wrote in opposition, making similar arguments. The broad definition of UPF risks capturing foods that are widely regarded as healthy and nutritious, and states the part of the definition tying in foods that have high amounts of saturated fat, sodium, or added sugars could impact foods like cheeses, even though it is widely recognized as a healthy source of protein, calcium, and other essential nutrients.

The Non-GMO Project states in opposition that they are a California nonprofit corporation with more than 20 years of experience in food certification and the

operator of Non-UPF Verified, the nation's leading independent certification for non-UPF foods. The Non-GMO project notes that they are not observers of this issue, they are one of its practitioners, and have serious concerns about this bill. The Non-GMO Projects core concerns include that it duplicates an existing nonprofit certification (Non-UPF Verified); it requires certification before definitions are finalized; it introduces litigation exposure and consumer confusion; and it establishes a non-UPF certification framework without requiring evaluation of actual processing methods.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Celeste Rodriguez, Tangipa

Prepared by: Vincent D. Marchand / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/25/26 21:20:31

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2246
Author: Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 8-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-1, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Online service, product, or feature: access by children

SOURCE: Children Now

DIGEST: This bill replicates portions of the California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act (AADC), removing provisions found unconstitutional by federal courts.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 repeal relevant portions of the existing AADC, provide that a business subject to the AADC take reasonable steps to prevent specified risks, provide that any contract provision entered as the result of a design feature, as specified, is voidable, and expand public enforcement, among other changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) to provide protections and regulations regarding the collection of personal information from children under the age of 13. (Title 15 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 6501 et seq.)

2) Establishes the AADC. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.99.28 et seq.)[1]

3) Defines relevant terms within the AADC. (§ 1798.99.30.)

4) Requires a business that provides an online service, product, or feature likely to be accessed by children to take all the following actions:
    a) Before offering a new online service, product, or feature to the public, complete a DPIA. The business must biennially review the DPIA and maintain documentation of the assessment as long as the online service, products, or features are likely to be accessed by children.
    b) Make DPIAs available to the Attorney General within 5 days of a request, as specified.
    c) Document any risk of material detriment to children that arises from the data management practices of the business identified in the DPIA and create a timed plan to mitigate or eliminate the risk before the online service, product, or feature is accessed by children.
    d) Estimate the age of child users with a reasonable level of certainty appropriate to the risks that arise from the data management practices of the business or apply the privacy and data protections afforded to children to all consumers.
    e) Configure all default privacy settings provided to children by the online service, product, or feature to settings that offer a high level of privacy, unless the business can demonstrate a compelling reason that a different setting is in the best interests of children.
    f) Provide any privacy information, terms of service, policies, and community standards concisely, prominently, and using clear language suited to the age of children likely to access that online service, product, or feature.
    g) If the online service, product, or feature allows the child's parent, guardian, or any other consumer to monitor the child's online activity or track the child's location, provide an obvious signal to the child when the child is being monitored or tracked.

[1] All further statutory references are to the Civil Code unless specified otherwise.

h) Enforce published terms, policies, and community standards established by the business, including, but not limited to, privacy policies and those concerning children.
i) Provide prominent, accessible, and responsive tools to help children, or if applicable their parents or guardians, exercise their privacy rights and report concerns. (§ 1798.99.30(a).)

5) Prohibits a business that provides an online service, product, or feature likely to be accessed by children from taking any of the following actions:
   a) Using the personal information of any child in a way that the business knows, or has reason to know, is materially detrimental to the physical health, mental health, or well-being of a child.
   b) Profiling a child by default unless (1) the business can demonstrate it has appropriate safeguards in place to protect children, and (2) profiling is necessary for the service, product or feature, and the business can demonstrate a compelling reason that profiling is in the best interests of children.
   c) Collect, sell, share, or retain any personal information that is not necessary to provide an online service, product, or feature with which a child is actively and knowingly engaged, unless the business can demonstrate a compelling reason that doing so is in the best interests of children.
   d) Use personal information for any reason other than a reason for which that personal information was collected, unless the business can demonstrate a compelling reason that use of the personal information is in the best interests of children.
   e) Collect, sell, or share any precise geolocation information of children by default unless the collection of that precise geolocation information is strictly necessary for the business to provide the service, product, or feature requested and then only for the limited time that the collection of precise geolocation information is necessary to provide the service, product, or feature.
   f) Collect any precise geolocation information of a child without providing an obvious sign to the child for the duration of that collection that precise geolocation information is being collected.
   g) Use dark patterns to lead or encourage children to provide personal information beyond what is reasonably expected to provide that online service, product, or feature, to forego privacy protections, or to take any action that the business knows, or has reason to know, is materially detrimental to the child's physical health, mental health, or well-being.

   h) Use any personal information collected to estimate age or age range for any other purpose or retain that personal information longer than necessary to estimate age. (§ 1798.99.30(b).)

6) Establishes the California Children's Data Protection Working Group (CDPWG) within the Office of the Attorney General to deliver a report to the Legislature regarding best practices for the implementation of the AADC. (§ 1798.99.32.)

7) Subjects any business that violates the AADC to an injunction and liability for a civil penalty of not more than $2,500 per affected child for each negligent violation or not more than $7,500 per affected child for each intentional violation, to be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General. Allows for a 90-day notice-and-cure period in which a business may avoid liability under the AADC. Authorizes the AG to adopt regulations to clarify the requirements of the AADC. (§ 1798.99.35.)

8) Establishes the Digital Age Assurance Act, which requires a developer to request a signal with respect to a particular user from an operating system provider or a covered application store when the application is downloaded and launched. A developer that receives such a signal is deemed to have actual knowledge of the age range of the user across all platforms and points of access of the application. (§ 1798.501(b).)

This bill:

1) Reworks provisions of the AADC, as described below, and repeals the corresponding sections of the existing AADC.

2) Requires a business that provides an online service, product, or feature likely to be accessed by children to take all of the following actions:
   a) Estimate the age of child users with a reasonable level of certainty appropriate to the risks that arise from the data management practices of the business pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1798.501 or apply the privacy and data protections afforded to children to all consumers.
   b) Configure all default privacy settings provided to children by the online service, product, or feature to settings that offer a high level of privacy.
   c) Provide any privacy information, terms of service, policies, and community standards concisely, prominently, and using clear language suited to the age of children likely to access that online service, product, or feature.

   d) If the online service, product, or feature allows the child's parent, guardian, or any other consumer to monitor the child's online activity or track the child's location, provide an obvious signal to the child when the child is being monitored or tracked.
   e) Provide prominent, accessible, and responsive tools to help children, or if applicable their parents or guardians, exercise their privacy rights and report concerns.

3) Prohibits a business that provides an online service, product, or feature likely to be accessed by children from taking any of the following actions:
   a) Profile a child by default, unless profiling is necessary to provide the online service, product, or feature or necessary to enhance the safety, privacy, or education of a child.
   b) Collect, sell, share, or retain any personal information that is not necessary to provide an online service, product, or feature with which a child is actively and knowingly engaged, or as described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 1798.145 of the Civil Code.
   c) If the end user is a child, use personal information for any reason other than a reason for which that personal information was collected.
   d) Collect, sell, or share any precise geolocation information of children by default unless the collection of that precise geolocation information is strictly necessary for the business to provide the service, product, or feature requested and then only for the limited time that the collection of precise geolocation information is necessary to provide the service, product, or feature.
   e) Collect any precise geolocation information of a child without providing an obvious sign to the child for the duration of that collection that precise geolocation information is being collected.
   f) Use dark patterns to lead or encourage children to provide personal information beyond what is reasonably expected to provide that online service, product, or feature to forego privacy protections.
   g) Retain any personal information collected to estimate age or age range for any other purpose or retain that personal information longer than necessary to estimate age. Age assurance shall be proportionate to the risks and data practice of an online service, product, or feature.

4) Clarifies that nothing therein shall be construed to require a business to prevent or preclude a child from accessing or viewing any piece of media or category of media.

5) Requires a business that provides an online service, product, or feature, likely to be access by children, to take reasonable steps to prevent the following risks of harm to children:
    a) Reasonably foreseeable physical or financial harm.
    b) Severe and reasonably foreseeable psychological or emotional harm to a reasonable child.
    c) A highly offensive intrusion on privacy rights protected by state or federal law.
    d) Adverse discrimination in violation of state or federal law.

6) Provides that any provision of contract entered into by a child or a child's parent or guardian is voidable at the child's election if the contract was entered into as a result of a design feature likely to be access by children.

7) Provides for enforcement by public prosecutors as well as the Attorney General and doubles the penalties that are provided for under the AADC.

8) Includes a severability clause.

Background

AB 2273 (Wicks, Chapter 320, Statutes of 2022) established the AADC, placing a series of obligations and restrictions on businesses that provide online services, products, or features likely to be accessed by children. This includes a prohibition on using the personal information of any child in a way that the business knows or has reason to know is materially detrimental to the physical health, mental health, or well-being of a child. The law also requires these businesses to "[e]stimate the age of child users with a reasonable level of certainty appropriate to the risks that arise from the data management practices of the business or apply the privacy and data protections afforded to children to all consumers." The AADC requires specified businesses to perform data protection impact assessments (DPIA) and to provide default privacy settings and other protections. The law also calls for the creation of a Children's Data Protection Working Group (CDPWG) tasked with delivering a report on best practices for AADC implementation. Violations are enforceable by the Attorney General. The law was challenged shortly after going into effect and although a number of opinions have been issued from the Ninth Circuit, the legal battle continues. Those opinions have upheld certain provisions of the law but found others unconstitutional.

This bill repeals and reworks portions of the AADC, excising parts found unconstitutional and further narrowing other provisions. The bill also adds in a duty of care, public prosecutor enforcement, and contract protections, as specified.

The bill is sponsored by Children Now. It is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, California, among other groups. It is opposed by several industry associations. For a more thorough analysis of this bill, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis.

Comment

According to the author:

> As new technology continues to emerge and evolve, there needs to be comprehensive guardrails that protect children and their privacy while they are interacting and consuming content online. Providing more safeguards for children and their privacy is important because its misuse can expose children to harmful material, risks to their mental and physical health, and other challenges. AB 2246 would help make technology and online products safer for children and protect them from risks and features that may be harmful to them.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Estimated $840,000 in FY 2026-27, increasing to $1.5 million annually to the Consumer Protection Section of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to conduct legal research, prepare documents for appeals, writs, trials and arbitration proceedings, including discovery, court appearances, and conducting complex and sensitive investigations. (Consumer Privacy Fund, General Fund)

Potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate civil actions. Expanding civil penalties could lead to lengthier and more complex court proceedings with attendant workload and resource costs to the court. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

Children Now (source)
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Bright Light Strategies
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Los Angeles Unified School District

Omidyar Network
Project Liberty LLC

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Chamber of Commerce
Computer and Communications Industry Association
Technet

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Children Now writes:

Since the enactment of the California AADC, at least a dozen states have followed with similar legislation. Many of those states have had the benefit of adapting their legislation to align with the findings of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. With the introduction of AB 2246, California can also adapt its most expansive child online protection law to similarly withstand constitutional scrutiny and continue to lead the country in preventing harms stemming from online activities.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A group of industry associations, including Technet, writes:

Personalization is not simply a commercial feature — it is a critical tool that enables platforms to tailor experiences to individual users in ways that benefit teens and actively reduce their exposure to harmful or inappropriate content. Removing this capability as a default has real consequences:

- Algorithmic filtering is a form of personalization that many platforms use to prevent harmful or borderline content from reaching minor users. Restricting this could make teens more, not less, likely to encounter age-inappropriate content. This is precisely the kind of safety tool parents want platforms to deploy.

- Personalization helps teens connect with like-minded communities, including school friends, local religious organizations, and sports teams. A nonpersonalized experience undermines these connections and reduces the meaningful value these platforms offer young people.

We respectfully request that this provision be amended to restore an exception consistent with the existing AADC, or alternatively that it be struck from the bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-1, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jeff Gonzalez, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Tangipa

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548, Benjamin Diaz / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 13:06:40

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2253
Author: Boerner (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 4-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Allen, Gonzalez, Menjivar
NOES: Valladares, Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-19, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Solid waste: products: environmental marketing claims

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires voluntary recycled content claims on labels does not exceed the amount of third-party certified recycled content introduced into the manufacturer's or supplier's overall supply stream for the material used in that product line, and specifies that only certain chains of custody models can be used to make recycled content claims.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/2026 take minor changes to this bill, most notably allowing all manufacturers, not just beverage manufacturers, to comply with the provisions of this bill through reporting requirements already established in the beverage container recycling program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "product" as including, but not limited to:

   a) A consumer product, as specified;

   b) A package or packaging component;

   c) A bag, sack, wrap, or other thin plastic sheet film product; and,

   d) A food or beverage container or container component, including straws, lids, and utensils. (Public Resources Code (PRC) section 42356)

2) Requires manufacturers or suppliers making environmental marketing claims relating to the recycled content of a plastic food container product to maintain information and documentation in support of that claim, including the recycled content for materials that have been recovered or otherwise diverted from the solid waste stream either during the manufacturing process (preconsumer) or after consumer use (postconsumer), and the recycled content claim conforms to the uniform standards for recycled content contained in the Federal Trade Commission Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims. (PRC section 42357.6)

3) Requires a manufacturer or supplier to furnish the information and documentation to any member of the public upon request or to provide the information on its website. (PRC section 42357.6)

This bill:

1) Requires voluntary recycled content claims on product labels meet the following criteria:

   a) The amount of recycled content material claimed on the label or labeling cannot exceed the amount of third-party certified recycled content introduced into the manufacturer's or supplier's overall supply stream for the material used in that product line (while allowing variation in individual products due to normal variations in the supply chain or manufacturing operations). This amount of recycled content may be determined using any of the following chain of custody models: identity-preserved, segregated model, controlled blending model, rolling average percentage method, as described in International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 22095:2020(E), or the actual recycled content used in the production of the material used in the product line, as determined through proportional attribution, as defined in ISO standard 22095-2:2026, as long as no recycling

credits are provided to any form of fuel use or fuel production and without credit transfers between unrelated processes.

b) The recycled content for materials has been recovered or otherwise diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process.

c) The recycled content claim conforms to the uniform standards for recycled content contained in the Federal Trade Commission Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims (16 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] Part 260), as it read on January 1, 2026.

2) Requires manufacturers or suppliers making a voluntary recycled content claim to maintain documentation that the recycled content meets the requirements in (1) above.

3) Requires a manufacturer or supplier of a product other than a plastic food container product to provide this information to the Attorney General, upon request.

a) Alternatively, or in addition to this, a manufacturer or supplier may elect to have the information and documentation reviewed by an independent third-party auditor qualified to evaluate recycled content accounting systems, chain of custody methodologies, and supporting records, and meeting certain criteria
b) Specifies that any confidential, proprietary, or trade secret information included in (3) shall not be subject to the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code) and shall remain protected from public disclosure to the fullest extent permitted by law.

4) Specifies that the postconsumer recycled content reporting requirements for plastic beverage containers established through the beverage container recycling program (BCRP) satisfy the requirements of this bill.

5) Specifies that the criteria for voluntary recycled content claims in this bill do not, unless otherwise required by law, include a regulatory filing or statement to comply with any plans or other documents submitted by a producer responsibility organization.

6) Adds a January 1, 2030 sunset to the existing requirement that manufacturer or supplier making an environmental marketing claim relating to the recycled

content of a plastic food container product keep documentation supporting that claim and provide that information to any member of the public upon request.

Background

Mass Balance and other chains of custody. Generally speaking, mass balance (MB) is an accounting system that is used by industry to track materials through the production process. According to a National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) report[1], MB is one of five common chain of custody (CoC) models designed to create transparency and trust throughout the value chain regarding properties of goods and materials that are otherwise difficult to distinguish. These CoC's vary on the precision of information required to be traced through the system. Some models trace material through a supply chain form start to finished product: other models allow credits to be traded from different materials and products.

Another important distinction in different models particularly pertaining to recycled content is whether or not they allow fuel to count as a product or not (e.g. if half of a used plastic bottle is converted to fuels, can that fuel be counted as 'recycled content' in another bottle on its own, or be counted as recycled content on a newly made bottle?).

There are several types of MB accounting systems, including:

- *Rolling average percentage model.* This model uses a rolling average percentage to track physical recycled content, but allows for physical recycled content fluctuations in individual products. This method is currently used in numerous industries to calculate recycled content for finished products. For example, a facility could use a feedstock that is 10% recycled content and 90% virgin plastic over the span of a month, but each day of that month could have a different proportion of virgin to recycled content, meaning that while there is variability in recycled content in each bottle, as a batch over the course of a month will have about 90% virgin and have 10% post-consumer recycled content.

- *Proportional Attribution/Allocation models.* Proportional allocation: This method is based on the assumption that recycled units act the same as non-recycled units and therefore have the same distribution among outputs. The

[1] NIST Special Publication 1500-206 An Assessment of Mass Balance Accounting Methods for Polymers Workshop Report

certified (e.g., recycled) inputs flow to outputs in accordance with the yield in which they went in. For example, if 10 % of the input stream is comprised of recycled polymers, then 10 % of each output stream is considered to contain recycled content and credits must be allocated accordingly.

- Proportional credit allocation: This method allows the use of credits for recycled input into the production process and allows for the allocation of that credit to be distributed proportionally to the various products produced. Depending on the certification process used, fuels may be counted as recycled inputs under this standard.

- *Non proportional allocation / free credit allocation* This method allows the use of credits for recycled input into any part of the production process, whether or not any portion of recycled content is in the finished product. Many chemical processes produce multiple outputs, many of which may not have a market for recycled content. Non-proportional allocation allows for credits to be freely assigned to any product. For example, one output product can be allocated 100% of the recycled content claims and the other products have no claim. Non-proportional allocation can be fuels-exempt or "polymers only" which only counts polymer products (non-polymer products or outputs are lost and cannot be applied to other products.)

Certification and ISO standards. Industries making marketing claims for postconsumer recycled content today can use a third-party certifier. Some common third-party certifiers include the Association of Plastic Recyclers, GreenBlue Recycled Materials Standard, Intertek, ISCC Plus, SCS Global and UL.

These certifiers can provide certification based on any model of CoC, and which CoC models they use depends on the certifier. For example, ISCC plus offers chain of custody certifications using segregated and mass balance CoC. ISCC plus offers CoC certifications using rolling average mass balance, proportional, and credit-based mass balance, including fuel included and fuel excluded CoC systems[2].

ISO is an independent, non-governmental global entity that creates and publishes official standards with protocols for nearly every industry to ensure quality, safety, and efficiency[3]. These standards create shared definitions and terminology that are essential for communication across businesses and industries. There is an ISO for

[2] https://iscc-system.org/wp-content/uploads/_legacy/2026/01/ISCC-PLUS_Chain-of-Custody.pdf
[3] Heires, M. (2008). The International Organization for Standardization (ISO). *New Political Economy*, *13*(3), 357–367. https://doi.org/10.1080/13563460802302693

CoC's, and a specific ISO for mass balance, ISO 22095-2 recently released in 2025.

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "AB 2253 ensures that consumers know whether the products they are purchasing actually contain recycled content. Currently, companies can utilize accounting to obscure the actual recycled content of their products. This practice of greenwashing means that Californians who think they are making better choices for the environment actually aren't. And, Californians are not only being misled by these fraudulent claims, but are also paying more for the false belief they are doing good because of misleading claims. California has always been the leader in the nation in protecting consumers and the environment. Californians shouldn't be bamboozled by these companies' false marketing on products that are not green. AB 2253 would protect consumers from deceptive recycled content claims by requiring companies that advertise recycled content in their products to maintain and make available written documentation proving the recycled material was diverted from the waste stream and demonstrate that their claims comply with the Federal Trade Commission standards."

2) *AB 2253, a truth in labeling bill.* AB 2553 ensures that if a product claims to have a certain recycled content, that product actually does have that recycled content in it (give or take variability of an individual product in a batch), and doesn't allow material that is turned into fuel to count as recycled content. AB 2553 takes credit based CoC systems, including some subtypes of MB, are off the table for companies making on-label marketing claims about recycled content in their products This is important to provide accurate and honest information to consumers and drive changes to innovate more recycled content in consumer-facing products.

   Without requiring products to contain postconsumer recycled content in order to claim that they have post-consumer recycled content, manufacturers could up-price products with recycled content claims, using a credit system to only add recycled content to products where that is cheaper and easier. In some types of allocation, while using credits such as non-proportional or free allocation including fuel, entities could claim to be making 100% recycled containers, for instance, while those containers have no recycled content, and are taking that 'credit' from products such as fuel or coke ash used to make roads rather than recovering actual plastic polymers.

AB 2253 asserts that this is unfair to the public that often pays a premium price for recycled content without understanding that the product they have purchased does not actually contain recycled content.

3) *But can't certifiers ensure truth in labeling?* Third party certifiers play an important role in communicating the credibility of recycled content claims to consumers. However, their certification is only as good as the CoC's that they use, and there is no limiting criteria that a third party certifier use non-credit based accounting. A third-party certifier may certify that a company is properly using the free allocation fuel included mass balance accounting system in making a 100% recycled content claim for a plastic container, but that does not mean that the plastic container has any recycled content or that any of the postconsumer material was converted to polymers to make new plastic.

   As such, third party certification is only incidental to the issue raised in AB 2253, which questions what accounting systems are misleading or informative to consumers choosing to purchase products with recycled content.

4) *Recycled content in an advanced context*. AB 2253 encompasses all consumer products, and is not restricted to plastic. However, plastic recycling provides an important example of why transparency on how recycled content is calculated is so important. In 2024, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) filed suit against ExxonMobil and related plastic industry groups based on allegations that the industry has, and continues to, "mislead consumers by engaging in an aggressive campaign to deceive the public and perpetuate the myth that recycling will solve the crisis of plastic pollution." According to the DOJ:

   - The vast majority—92%—of plastic waste processed through ExxonMobil's "advanced recycling" technology does not become recycled plastic, but rather primarily fuels;
   - The plastics that are produced through ExxonMobil's "advanced recycling" process contain so little plastic that they are effectively virgin plastics deceptively marketed as "circular" and sold at a premium;
   - ExxonMobil's "advanced recycling" process cannot handle large amounts of post-consumer plastic waste without risking the safety and performance of its equipment; and,
   - Plastics produced through ExxonMobil's "advanced recycling" program, in its best case scenario, will only account for less than one percent of its total virgin plastic production capacity, which continues to grow.

Industry groups have stated that advanced recycling will be essential to achieve California's recycling goals. If that is true, then having a clear understanding of what constitutes recycled content will be essential to evaluating whether meaningful progress is being made towards those recycling goals, or whether the goals will be achieved in name only.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

- Unknown, potentially significant cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund), possibly in excess of $150,000, to the courts to adjudicate enforcement actions. Actual costs would depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately $1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately $117.3 million in 2025-26. The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around $35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

- Unknown but potentially significant costs (General Fund) for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate, monitor, request information, and bring enforcement actions to support this bill's provisions.

- The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery anticipates minor and absorbable costs as a result of this bill because the bill affects only the legality of marketing claims and does not impact CalRecycle's existing compliance- or enforcement-related authority, nor does the bill give the department any new authority.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/23/26)

350 Bay Area Action
350 Sacramento
Active San Gabriel Valley
Arts District Community Council LA
Ban Sup (single Use Plastic)
Between the Waters
Beyond Plastics
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
California Environmental Voters

California Product Stewardship Council
Californians Against Waste
Calpirg, California Public Interest Research Group
Center for Environmental Health
Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
Clean Water Action
Cleanearth4kids.org
Climate Action California
Climate Reality Project, Orange County
Day One
Ecology Center
Environmental Justice Communities Against Plastics
Forest Stewardship Council US
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Healing and Justice Center
Indivisible Ca: Statestrong
Just Transition Alliance
Just Zero
League of California Cities
Lori R. Mendez, Aplc
Nevada County Climate Action Now
Northern California Recycling Association
Nrdc
Orinda; City of
Pacific Environment
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Regen Monterey
Rethink Waste
Rural County Representatives of California
San Francisco Baykeeper
Save the Albatross Coalition
Stopwaste
Surfrider Foundation
Sustainable Claremont
The Last Beach Cleanup
The Last Plastic Straw
The Story of Stuff Project
Valley Improvement Projects

West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
Wishtoyo Foundation
Zero Waste Ithaca
Zero Waste San Diego

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/23/26)

Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Beverage Association
American Chemistry Council
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Institute for Packaging and Environment
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Brea Chamber of Commerce
Calasian Chamber of Commerce
California Advanced Biofuels Alliance
California Chamber of Commerce
California Food Producers
California Grocers Association
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California Retailers Associaiton
Can Manufacturers Institute
Carpet & Rug Institute
Carpet America Recovery Effort
Carton Council
Communications Cable & Connectivity Association
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Corona Chamber of Commerce
Dairy Institute of California
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce
EPS Industry Alliance
Fontana Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance
Glass Packaging Institute
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Household and Commercial Products Association
International Bottled Water Association

International Sleep Products Association
LA Canada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce
Lodi Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Meat Institute
Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce
Napa Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers
National Confectioners Association
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Food Institute
Plastics Industry Association
Plastics Pipe Institute
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Power Tool Institute
Printing United Alliance
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce
Snac International
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance
The Adhesive and Sealant Council
The Toy Association
The Vinyl Institute
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
Western Growers Association
Western Plastics Association
Wine Institute
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce
Plastic Oceans International
Solution Citizen

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-19, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Ransom, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas

NOES: Alanis, Ávila Farías, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Calderon, Carrillo, Dixon, Gallagher, Gipson, Mark González, McKinnor, Nguyen, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Solache, Soria, Valencia, Zbur

Prepared by: Brynn Cook / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 12:17:27

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2266
Author: Schultz (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 14-2, 6/16/26
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Wahab
NOES: Niello, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Electricity: load-serving entities

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), on or before January 1, 2030, to consider a process to consolidate specified energy procurement plans submitted by load serving entities (LSEs) to the CPUC. This bill also requires the CPUC, when feasible, to consolidate specified compliance reporting requirements.

Senate Floor Amendments of 08/21/26 delete provisions of this bill addressing capacity valuation methods and reporting on the use of backstop procurement. The amendments also require the CPUC to consider consolidated procurement plans, instead of requiring consolidated plans, and requires the CPUC to provide reasons if it determines not to consolidate procurement plans or compliance reporting.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes and vests the CPUC with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article 12 of the California Constitution)

2) Establishes the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) as a nonprofit, public benefit corporation and requires the CAISO, among other duties, to ensure the efficient use and reliable operation of the electrical transmission grid consistent with the achievement of planning and operating reserve criteria, as provided. (Public Utilities Code §§ 345 and 345.5)

3) Requires the CPUC to work with the CAISO to establish resource adequacy (RA) requirements for LSEs, which include electrical corporations, electric service providers (ESPs), and community choice aggregators (CCAs). Specifies the criteria the CPUC must consider when establishing RA requirements and specifies that an electrical corporation's reasonable costs for meeting RA are recoverable from customers through nonbypassable charges. Defines LSEs as electrical corporations, CCAs and ESPs. (Public Utilities Code § 380)

4) Establishes the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program which requires retail sellers (including LSEs) to procure at least 60% eligible renewable energy resources by December 31, 2030. (Public Utilities Code §§ 399.11-399.33)

5) Requires the CPUC to identify a diverse and balanced portfolio of resources needed to ensure a reliable electricity supply that provides optimal integration of renewable energy and resource diversity in a cost-effective manner. Requires the CPUC to establish integrated resource planning-based procurement requirements that rely on zero-carbon-emitting resources to the maximum extent reasonable and be designed to achieve the state policy specified in Section 454.53 and any statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) limit. (Public Utilities Code § 454.51)

6) Requires the CPUC to adopt a process for each LSE to file an integrated resource plan (IRP) and schedule periodic update to the plan and require that LSEs ensure system and local reliability and require sufficient, predictable resource procurement and development to avoid unplanned energy supply shortfalls, as provided. (Public Utilities Code § 454.52)

This bill:

1) Makes findings and declarations regarding the Legislature's intent to improve information and transparency and minimize the state's reliance on backstop procurement mechanisms.

2) Requires the CPUC, on or before January 1, 2030, to consider a process to consolidate plans submitted by LSEs to the CPUC pursuant to the IRP and RPS programs into a single procurement plan.

3) Requires the CPUC, when feasible, to consolidate compliance reporting for reliability requirements pursuant to the RA and IRP programs.

4) Requires the CPUC, if it determines consolidation of plans or reporting requirements are not feasible, to provide the reasons in the decision or ruling addressing LSEs' procurement or compliance reporting obligations.

5) Requires any compliance reporting requirements or templates issued by the CPUC to ensure compliance with the RA program, RPS, or IRP are finalized for a minimum of 30 business days before a compliance report submission by an LSE.

Background

SB 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018). SB 100 established the state's target to meet 100% of the state's electricity retail load with renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045. SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2022) established interim goals to meeting the SB 100 target, specifically requiring 90% of retail sales by 2035, 95% by 2040 to be met with renewable and zero-carbon energy resources. SB 100 Joint Agency Report evaluates the challenges and opportunities in implementing SB 100. It includes an initial assessment of the additional energy resources and the resource building rates needed to achieve 100% clean electricity, along with the associated costs. The report is scheduled to be updated every four years. The first report issued March 2021 identified preliminarily that on average the state may need six gigawatts of new renewable and energy storage annually to meet the SB 100 goals. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is developing the 2025 report.

IRP process. SB 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) required each LSE to file a biennial IRP for approval or certification by the CPUC. The CPUC combines all LSEs' IRPs to ensure the state is on its path to meet its clean energy

procurement goals. Public owned utilities (POUs) are required to file their own IRPs with the CEC. The goal of the IRP is a two-year planning process to ensure that LSEs are meeting targets that allow the electricity sector to contribute to California's economy-wide GHG emissions reductions goals and that helps to reduce overall costs. The CPUC adopted a 2023 portfolio that reduces 25 million metric ton (MMT) of GHG emissions by 2035, as compared to the previously adopted 38 MMT by 2030 planning target. The IRP is intended to forecast needs on a 10-year horizon. In this regard, the IRP is a forward-looking activity. As part of the IRP process, the CPUC has issued several procurement orders on LSEs to address near-term and mid-term procurement needs. Within the procurement orders, the CPUC has directed central procurement for local RA and mid-term reliability by electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs) for customers, including those of other LSEs.

Resource adequacy (RA). Following the California energy crisis of 2000-01, the California Legislature enacted legislation to prevent future incidents of widespread blackouts and rolling brownouts due to lack of electric generating capacity. Among the reforms adopted in response to the crisis was the adoption of Public Utilities Code §380 as an effort to better ensure reliability of electricity generation supply. The statute directs the CPUC, in consultation with the CAISO, to establish RA requirements for all LSEs, including electric IOUs, ESPs, and CCAs (which did not exist at the time of the crisis).

The current RA program consists of system, local, and flexible requirements for each month of a compliance year. In October of each year, LSEs must demonstrate that they have procured 90% of their system RA obligations for the five summer months (May-September) of the following year, as well as 100% of their local requirements, and 90% of their flexible requirements for each month of the coming compliance year. In recent years, the CPUC has adopted changes to the RA program, including increasing the planning reserve margin for all LSEs. The CPUC also assesses penalties on the LSEs who fail to satisfy their RA obligations, including limiting the expansion of CCAs if they are deficient in their RA requirement. The CPUC has implemented a significant change to the RA program by implementing a slice-of-day (SOD) framework that assesses the hourly use of resources. The CPUC has been developing the new structure for a few years and in 2025 implemented the first year of compliance for the SOD. The CPUC adopted a 17% planning reserve margin for the SOD framework, consistent with previous planning reserve margins, to procure enough RA to meet load obligations in each hour rather than monthly. Under the SOD framework, LSEs receive a 24-hour obligation for each of the 12 months of the year. The new RA framework requires

that resources, including energy storage resources, demonstrate their ability to provide capacity during specific, critical hours rather than just a daily peak.

CAISO backstop procurement. If California RA rules fail to provide sufficient resources, the CAISO is compelled to utilize centralized backstop procurement mechanisms in order to maintain electric system reliability. Backstop procurement is whereby the CAISO contracts with a generator to address the shortfall. Under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rules, the CAISO, like all other balancing authorities, must ensure system reliability or face penalties by FERC. The CAISO has two mechanisms for centralized backstop procurement: Reliability Must Run (RMR) and Capacity Procurement Mechanism (CPM). As this procurement can be due to an emergency supply shortfall, they can be more expensive than planned procurement.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author:

> AB 2266 would streamline overlapping CPUC procurement and compliance processes, improve transparency, and help align how resource reliability is evaluated across programs. As California has built on its success as a clean-energy leader, separately enacted programs have created a patchwork of CPUC processes over time. This bill seeks to reduce duplicative reporting, provide clearer procurement signals, and improve confidence in whether the state is procuring the right mix of resources. …Taken together, these changes are intended to support continuous process improvements, more efficient planning, better accountability, and better outcomes for ratepayers.

CPUC proposes new framework, Reliable and Clean Power Procurement Program (RCPPP). As part of existing proceedings, including those related to RA and IRP, specifically R. 25-10-003, the CPUC is actively exploring a more formal programmatic approach for how procurement may be ordered or authorized, in lieu of the current ad hoc, order-by-order approach. Beginning in 2020 to April 2025, CPUC staff papers have proposed an RCPPP to support affordability in both reliability and GHG reductions by giving LSEs a more predictable regulatory framework to procure their share of resources needed to meet electric system reliability and GHG emissions reduction goals at least cost. The CPUC's proposed RCPPP offers two options: one that allows LSEs to procure both new and existing resources to fill system reliability gaps, and one limited to new resources only. Both options are designed to address procurement shortfalls that LSEs cannot or do

not fill on their own. The proposal will undergo extensive stakeholder review in the coming months through the IRP proceeding.

Bill requires the CPUC to consider consolidated procurement plans and/or compliance reporting. This bill requires the CPUC, by January 1, 2030, to consider a process to consolidate procurement plans submitted by LSEs in compliance with the RPS and the IRP. The bill also requires the CPUC, when feasible, to consolidate compliance reporting for reliability requirements pursuant to the RA and IRP programs. Recent amendments require the CPUC to provide reasons for not consolidated procurement plans or compliance reporting. These requirements may be folded into considerations within the RCPPP or within relevant proceedings.

Related/Prior Legislation

(See Policy Committee Analysis)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown but significant ongoing CPUC costs, possibly around a million dollars annually (ratepayer funds), to implement the provisions of this bill. Potential CPUC workload could include rulemaking, methodology development, reconciliation with the Slice-of-Day framework, compliance and other reporting, and coordination with the CEC and utilities.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Alliance for Retail Energy Markets
Ava Community Energy
California Community Choice Association
Environmental Defense Fund
NRG Energy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Independent Energy Producers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to AVA Community Energy:

As the grid incorporates a wider range of resource types, including storage and distributed energy resources, the need for consistent and transparent valuation methodologies has become increasingly important. As a community choice aggregator (CCA), Ava and other load serving entities (LSEs) must navigate multiple capacity valuation frameworks across different programs, each with its own assumptions, metrics, and compliance requirements. This fragmentation increases administrative burden, complicates procurement decisions, and introduces uncertainty into long-term planning.

AB 2266 addresses these challenges by requiring the CPUC to adopt a single, standardized approach to valuing resource adequacy capacity. This reform will improve transparency, reduce duplicative compliance requirements, and enable more efficient resource procurement. By streamlining these processes, AB 2266 will help reduce administrative costs and support more cost-effective planning, ultimately benefiting customers through lower rates.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Independent Energy Producers Association (IEP) reasons for opposing this bill largely relate to language that was amended out of this bill by recent Floor Amendments. It is unclear whether IEP opposes the current language remaining in this bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wicks

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/24/26 13:28:48

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2281
Author: Berman (D)
Amended: 7/1/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-9, 5/11/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Office of Elections Cybersecurity

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to assess whether additional state resources are needed to replace election cybersecurity resources previously provided by the federal government and permits the Office of Elections Cybersecurity (OEC) to consult with academic researchers to develop best practices for protecting against threats to election cybersecurity.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes, under the SOS, the OEC and tasks the OEC with the following:

   a) Coordinating efforts between the SOS and local election officials to reduce the likelihood and severity of cyber incidents that could interfere with the security or integrity of elections in the state.

   b) Monitoring and counteracting false or misleading information regarding the electoral process that is published online or on other platforms and that may

suppress voter participation or cause confusion and disruption of the orderly and secure administration of elections.

2) Requires the OEC to do all of the following:

   a) Coordinate between federal, state, and local agencies the sharing of information on threats to election cybersecurity, risk assessment, and threat mitigation in a timely manner and in a manner that protects sensitive information.

   b) In consultation with federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations, develop best practices for protecting against threats to election cybersecurity.

   c) In consultation with state and local agencies, develop and include best practices for cyber incident responses in emergency preparedness plans for elections.

   d) Identify resources, such as protective security tools, training, and other resources available to state and county election officials.

   e) Advise the SOS on issues related to election cybersecurity, and make recommendations for changes to state laws, regulations, and policies to further protect election infrastructure.

   f) Serve as a liaison between the SOS, other state agencies, federal agencies, and local election officials on election cybersecurity issues.

   g) Coordinate efforts within the SOS to protect the security of internet-connected elections-related resources, including the state's online voter registration system, the statewide voter registration database (VoteCal), the SOS' election night results website, online campaign and lobbying filing and disclosure system developed by the SOS (CalAccess), and other parts of the SOS' website.

   h) Assess the false or misleading information regarding the electoral process that is published online or other platforms, mitigate the false or misleading information, and educate voters, especially new and unregistered voters, with valid information from election officials or the SOS.

This bill:

1) Requires the SOS to assess whether additional state resources are needed to replace election cybersecurity resources previously provided by the federal government.

2) Permits the OEC to consult with academic researchers to develop best practices for protecting against threats to election cybersecurity.

3) Makes minor and technical changes.

Background

Office of Elections Cybersecurity. AB 3075 (Berman, Chapter 241, Statutes of 2018) established the OEC, known as the Election Security Program, within the SOS' office. The OEC has two primary missions. First, it is responsible for coordinating efforts between the SOS and local election officials to reduce the likelihood and severity of cyber incidents that could interfere with the security or integrity of elections in California. The OEC is also tasked with monitoring and counteracting false or misleading information regarding the electoral process that is published online or on other platforms that may suppress voter participation, cause confusion, or disrupt the ability to ensure a secure election. According to the OEC's website, the office serves California with the sole purpose of keeping every Californian's vote safe from online interference, especially the spread of mis- and disinformation. The SOS also provides information on how to identify incorrect election information, information on where to find correct election information, and ways to report false or misleading information.

Additionally, the OEC works with federal, state, and local partners to share election security information and best practices. This includes the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, California Department of Technology, California Office of Emergency Services, California Highway Patrol, and county election officials. Cybersecurity trainings with federal and state partners, as well as organizing tabletop exercises and drills for county election officials, are also hosted by the OEC.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) works with partners at every level to coordinate efforts relating to information on critical infrastructure in the United States. This includes election security and cybersecurity. In 2025, 130 CISA positions were eliminated and funding for information-sharing programs under

CISA were terminated. This led to new concerns with the agency's ability to provide information and combat domestic and foreign cyber threats.

Comments

Author's Statement. I was proud to author legislation in 2018 to create the OEC, which is tasked with coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local officials to reduce the likelihood and severity of cyber incidents that threaten the integrity of California elections. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has cut critical funding, coordination, and support that helped states guard against threats to our election systems. Given the loss of federal election cybersecurity infrastructure, this bill would direct OEC to assess if additional state resources are needed to ensure that California officials continue to have the information and tools necessary to defend our democracy from cyber-attacks. Additionally, this bill would strengthen OEC by authorizing them to consult with academic researchers, allowing them to utilize their expertise in support of OEC's mission.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 3075 (Berman, Chapter 241, Statutes of 2018) established the OEC within the SOS' office.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-9, 5/11/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Dixon, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Castillo, Chen, Ellis, Flora, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Lowenthal, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Soria, Ta, Wallis

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/5/26 15:04:36

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2294
Author: Ta (R), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Hurtado

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State holidays: Sylvia Mendez Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill designates April 14 as Sylvia Mendez Day, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address statutory chaptering issues with similar legislation, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/17/26 make minor and technical revisions to the Legislative findings and declarations.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Designates specific days as holidays in the state, including, among others, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

2) Designates certain days as judicial holidays and exempts others including, Lunar New Year, Diwali, and Genocide Remembrance Day.

This bill:

1) Designates April 14, a state holiday, as Sylvia Mendez Day.

2) Exempts Sylvia Mendez Day from being a judicial holiday, as specified.

3) Includes related Legislative findings and declarations, as specified.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "as the former Mayor of Westminster, I know the power of the Mendez v. Westminster case. It's important for California to celebrate the civil rights challenges faced by Mexican-Americans in this state. Furthermore, I am confident California will benefit from learning of the historical link between Mendez v. Westminster and Brown v. Board of Education, and of how California led the way as the first state to outlaw all public school segregation. This legislative session should waste no time in celebrating Sylvia Mendez's contribution to civil rights in the state's government code to ensure this trailblazing case receives its proper place in history."

State Holidays. Existing law establishes the various state holidays of California, including those deemed to be judicial holidays. While many state holidays coincide with "judicial" or "bank" holidays, a number of these dates have been exempted in law from being a judicial holiday.

Existing state holidays include:

a) Every Sunday.
b) January 1.
c) The third Monday in January, known as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day."
d) The date corresponding with the second new moon following the winter solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice should an intercalary month intervene, known as "Lunar New Year."
e) February 12, known as "Lincoln Day."
f) The third Monday in February.
g) March 31, known as "Farmworkers Day."
h) April 24, known as "Genocide Remembrance Day."
i) The 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year, known as "Diwali."
j) The last Monday in May.

k) June 19, known as "Juneteenth."
l) July 4.
m) The first Monday in September.
n) September 9, known as "Admission Day."
o) The fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day."
p) The second Monday in October, known as "Columbus Day."
q) November 11, known as "Veterans Day."
r) December 25.
s) Good Friday from 12 noon until 3 p.m.

This bill establishes April 14 as "Sylvia Mendez Day," and specifically exempts that date from being included as a judicial holiday. This bill also includes related Legislative findings and declarations regarding Sylvia Mendez.

Mendez et al. v Westminster School District of Orange County et al. The landmark case of *Mendez et al. v. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.,* (S.D. Cal. 1946) 64 F.Supp. 544, aff'd *Westminster School District of Orange County v. Mendez* (9th Cir. 1947) 161 F.2d 774 (hereafter Mendez v. Westminster) remains a pivotal decision in the struggle for civil rights and educational equality for Mexican American students in California.

The case arose when Sylvia Mendez and approximately 5,000 similarly situated children in Orange County were denied admission to neighborhood schools and instead directed to separate "Mexican schools," based solely on their ancestry and ethnicity. In response, Sylvia Mendez's family, with four other families, challenged the practice in federal court. The families argued that the segregation of Mexican American students violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The federal district court agreed, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision in 1947, marking a major victory for educational equity and civil rights.

Mendez v. Westminster is widely regarded as one of the earliest and most important school desegregation cases in the nation. Years before the United States Supreme Court decided Brown v. Board of Education, the federal Courts in California recognized that separating children based on ancestry deprived them of equal educational opportunities and underlined the principles of equality upon which public education is founded. The case also attracted support from a broad coalition of civil rights organizations including the NAACP which filed an amicus brief through attorneys – including Thurgood Marshall – who would later

successfully argue Brown v. Board of Education before the United States Supreme Court.

The decision's impact extended beyond the courtroom. Just months after the Ninth Circuit affirmed the ruling, Governor Earl Warren signed legislation ending statutory school segregation in California. This act made California a national leader in the movement toward integrated public education. Governor Warren would later go on to serve as the Chief Justice of the United States and the author of the unanimous opinion in Brown v. Board of Education.

The Mendez family was one of five plaintiff families (Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, Thomas and Mary Luisa Estrada, William and Virginia Guzman, Frank and Irene Palomino, Lorenzo and Josefina Ramirez). Their surname appears first because Gonzalo Mendez was the first-listed plaintiff in the legal caption, just as Westminster School District was the first-listed defendant. The legal record does not establish that the Mendez family alone initiated or led the litigation, nor does being listed first diminish the equal role played by the other plaintiff families throughout the case. Each of the five families accepted personal risk, challenged school segregation together, and remained a part of the litigation through the federal district court's decision and the Ninth Circuit's April 14, 1947, affirmation of that victory. Today, three children directly involved in the original litigation remain living: Joe Ramirez, Evelina Estrada, and Daniel Estrada.

This bill designates Sylvia Mendez Day as a state holiday and exempts that date from being considered a judicial holiday. Existing law does not require private employers to provide paid holidays or close their businesses on any holiday. Similarly, local governments and state employers retain authority under applicable laws regarding paid time off.

Not All Holidays are Paid Holidays. California law does not require private employers to provide paid holidays, to close their business on any holiday, or to give employees the day off for any particular holiday. When an employer chooses to close its business on a holiday and provide paid time off, that practice exists because of an employer adopted policy or practice, the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, or the terms of an individual employment agreement. There is no legal requirement that an employer offer paid holidays or close its operations on those days.

At the local level, cities have the liberty to specify by charter, ordinance or resolution what paid holidays the city will provide to its city employees. Similarly,

most state workers are bound by the memorandum of understanding that they have negotiated with the Governor. For all other state employees, they are entitled to the holidays prescribed in existing law.

This bill adds Sylvia Mendez Day to the list of state holidays. An additional state holiday does not equate to an additional paid day off. Public employees earn personal holidays that they may use to take any day off with pay.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1841 (Ramos, 2026) entitles state employees to a holiday on the 4th Friday in September, known as "Native American Day," among other provisions. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2017 (Haney, 2026) adds "Eid al-Fitr" and "Eid al-Adha" to the list of state holidays, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2156 (Rivas, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2026) designated May 31 as Farmworkers Day and requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 31 as Farmworkers Day.

AB 2455 (Haney, Chapter 49, Statutes of 2026) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 17 as Bruce Lee Day, and designates that date as having special significance, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 268 (Kalra, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025) added Diwali to the list of state holidays, authorized public schools and community colleges to close on Diwali, and authorized state employees to elect to take specified leave in recognition of Diwali.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Anaheim Union High School District
Cal Voices
California Association for Bilingual Education
California Civil Liberties Advocacy
California College Democrats
California Family Council
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Californians for Equal Rights Foundation

Campbell Union High School District
Chicano Federation of San Diego County
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Courage California
Fred T. Korematsu Institute
Garden Grove Unified School District
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Madera Unified School District
Mountain View School District
Orange County Labor Federation
Public Advocates
The California Baptist Capitol Ministry
Vision Y Compromiso

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California League of United Latin American Citizens

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of this bill, the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce writes that, "[t]he Mendez v. Westminster decision stands as an early and pivotal affirmation of equal protection in public education. Through determination and sacrifice, Latino families successfully confronted institutional discrimination, leading California to become one of the first states to prohibit school segregation. Their efforts not only advanced justice within the state but also helped lay the groundwork for the United States Supreme Court's later rulings on educational equality."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In opposition to this bill, the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) write, in part, "California LULAC deeply respects Sylvia Mendez and recognizes her decades of work educating the public about the landmark school desegregation case commonly known as *Mendez v. Westminster*. Her efforts have helped ensure that generations of Californians understand the importance of this historic civil rights victory.

Our concern is not with honoring Sylvia Mendez or her family's contributions. Rather, it is with ensuring that California law accurately reflects the collective nature of the litigation and the many families whose courage made this victory possible."

Further, "[t]he case was filed as *Mendez et al. v. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* It was a class-action lawsuit brough on behalf of approximately 5,000 similarly situated Mexican American children and involved

five plaintiff families challenging segregation across four Orange County school districts. The federal district court identified Gonzalo Mendez, Thomas Estrada, William Guzman, Frank Palomino, and Lorenzo Ramirez as the fathers bringing the action on behalf of their children and the broader class."

And finally, "California now has an opportunity to commemorate this landmark decision in a manner that is both accurate and inclusive. We respectfully request that AB 2294 be amended to recognize the collective achievement of all five plaintiff families in *Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al.*, rather than naming the observance solely after one participant.

"California LULAC stands ready to work collaboratively with your office, the surviving family members, and other stakeholders to develop amendments that appropriately recognize the full history of this landmark case. Until such amendments are adopted, California LULAC must respectfully oppose AB 2294."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/24/26 13:45:31

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2298
Author: Irwin (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 5/21/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil instruction: computer science: content standards and instructional materials

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), during the next revision of the computer science content standards occurring after January 1, 2027, to consider incorporating cybersecurity skills content into those standards.

Senate floor amendments of 8/20/26 strike a provision of this bill requiring the IQC to consider including cybersecurity skills in its criteria for evaluating instructional materials, when such materials are next adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires, on or before July 31, 2019, the IQC to consider developing and recommending to the SBE computer science content standards for kindergarten (K) and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, as specified. States that the computer science content standards may be used by school districts to develop computer science

programs and course assessments but are not mandatory. (Education Code (EC) § 60605.4)

2) Requires the SBE to adopt at least five instructional materials for grades K-8 in the following subjects:

   a) Language arts;

   b) Mathematics;

   c) Science;

   d) Social science;

   e) Bilingual or bicultural subjects; and

   f) Any other subject, discipline, or interdisciplinary areas for which the SBE determines the adoption of instructional materials to be necessary or desirable. (EC § 60200)

3) Establishes procedures for the adoption of instructional materials for grades K-8 by the SBE. (EC § 60200)

4) Authorizes a process for conducting a follow-up adoption of instructional materials, and defines it as one other than the primary adoption. (EC § 60227)

5) Authorizes local educational agencies (LEAs) to use instructional materials that are aligned with state adopted academic content standards, including instructional materials that have not been adopted by the SBE. (EC § 60210)

6) Requires that if an LEA chooses to use instructional materials that have not been adopted by the SBE, the LEA shall ensure that a majority of the participants of any review process it conducts are classroom teachers who are assigned to the subject area or grade level of the materials. (EC § 60210)

This bill:

1) Requires the IQC to consider incorporating cybersecurity skills content during the next revision of the computer science content standards occurring after January 1, 2027.

2) Defines "cybersecurity skills" to mean techniques to protect information and devices by preventing, detecting, and responding to attacks by threat actors.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Recent years have seen a stark increase in the number and sophistication of cyber threats posed to the students in our state, underscoring the need for modernized cybersecurity education. Existing computer science content standards, last updated in 2018, include cybersecurity content, but they focus primarily on protecting information rather than identifying and preventing threats. While this foundation has value, it reflects an outdated generation of cyber risks."

"Since 2018, cyberattacks have grown increasingly complex, particularly with the growth of artificial intelligence, enabling more advanced phishing schemes, social engineering, and automated attacks. As a result, our existing standards no longer align with the current cyber threat landscape. Modern cybersecurity education standards must emphasize the skills needed to identify, prevent, and respond to these increasingly sophisticated attacks."

"AB 2298 addresses this gap by requiring the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including updated, more robust cybersecurity skills content focused on identifying and responding to threats into the state's computer science standards. This will ensure that, as cyber threats continue to evolve, students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to protect themselves and respond effectively to the modern cyber threats they face today."

Computer Science Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve. In September 2018, the SBE adopted the California Computer Science Standards based on the revised International Computer Science Teachers Association standards, which align with the national K–12 Computer Science Framework.

The standards include five core concept areas which are each coupled with seven core practices. Each core concept provides foundational knowledge on key ideas, which build upon each other as students progress through grade spans. Core practices help demonstrate ways in which students actively engage in computer science learning experiences that build conceptual knowledge.

Cybersecurity in the Computer Science Standards. This bill requires the IQC, during its next revision of the Computer Science Standards, to consider incorporating content on cybersecurity skills. Currently, cybersecurity content is featured across all grade spans in the Computer Science Standards as a subconcept under the Networks and the Internet (NI) core concept. Examples within the standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

Kindergarten through Grade 2

Standard: K-2.NI.5 - Explain why people use passwords.

Descriptive Statement: Passwords protect information from unwanted use by others. When creating passwords, people often use patterns of familiar numbers and text to more easily remember their passwords. However, this may make the passwords weaker. Knowledge about the importance of passwords is an essential first step in learning about cybersecurity. Students explain that strong passwords are needed to protect devices and information from unwanted use. For example, students could play a game of guessing a three-character code. In one version of the game, the characters are only numbers. In the second version, characters are numbers or letters. Students describe why it would take longer to guess the correct code in the second case. Alternatively, students could engage in a collaborative discussion regarding passwords and their importance. Students may follow up the discussion by exploring strong password components (combination of letters, numbers, and characters), creating their own passwords, and writing opinion pieces indicating reasons their passwords are strong.

Grades 3 through 5

Standard: 3-5.NI.5 - Describe physical and digital security measures for protecting personal information.

Descriptive Statement: Personal information can be protected physically and digitally. Cybersecurity is the protection from unauthorized use of electronic data, or the measures taken to achieve this. Students identify what personal information is and the reasons for protecting it. Students describe physical and digital approaches for protecting personal information, such as using strong passwords and biometric scanners. For example, students could engage in a collaborative discussion orally or in writing regarding topics that relate to personal cybersecurity issues. Discussion topics could be based on current events related to cybersecurity or topics that are applicable to students, such as the necessity of backing up data to guard against loss, how to create strong passwords, and the importance of not sharing passwords, or why we should keep operating systems updated and use anti-virus software to protect data and systems. Students could also discuss physical measures that can be used to protect data, including biometric scanners, locked doors, and physical backups.

Grades 9 through 12

Standard: 9-12.NI.6 - Compare and contrast security measures to address various security threats.

Descriptive Statement: Network security depends on a combination of hardware, software, and practices that control access to data and systems. The needs of users and the sensitivity of data determine the level of security implemented. Potential security problems, such as denial-of-service attacks, ransomware, viruses, worms, spyware, and phishing, present threats to sensitive data. Students compare and contrast different types of security measures based on factors such as efficiency, feasibility, ethical impacts, usability, and security. For example, students could review case studies or current events in which governments or organizations experienced data leaks or data loss as a result of these types of attacks. Students could provide an analysis of actual security measures taken compared to other security measures which may have led to different outcomes. Alternatively, students might discuss computer security policies in place at the local level that present a tradeoff between usability and security, such as a web filter that prevents access to many educational sites but keeps the campus network safe.

The IQC and the SBE. The Legislature has vested the IQC and the SBE with the authority to develop and adopt state content standards, curriculum frameworks, and instructional materials. The content standards describe the knowledge, concepts, and skills that educators and professionals in the field expect students to know at each grade level. Curriculum frameworks provide guidance for implementing the content standards by describing the scope and sequence of knowledge and the skills that all students are expected to master.

The IQC develops curriculum frameworks through a process involving practitioners and experts who have an in-depth understanding of curriculum and instruction, including the full scope and sequence of the curriculum in each subject and at each grade level, constraints on instructional time and resources, and the relationship of curriculum to state assessments and other measures of student progress. Changes are frequently made in response to public comment. The frameworks are then adopted by the SBE in a public meeting.

The resulting curriculum framework is intended to serve as a guidance document for educators and administrators on how to plan for and provide quality, skills-based, standards-aligned instruction on the various content areas.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

Alameda County Office of Education
Business Software Alliance
California Chamber of Commerce
California State PTA
California Teachers Association
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Mastercard
OpenAI
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Software & Information Industry Association
TechNet

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Lowenthal, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz, Wicks, Wilson

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 13:43:42

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2313
Author: Berman (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Gonzalez, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Caballero, Dahle, Grove, Hurtado, Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-21, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Gas corporations: gas distribution service line replacements: alternatives

SOURCE: Earthjustice
Natural Resource Defense Council

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Home Energy Choice Act, which requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to solicit proposals for, and require each gas corporation to offer, a Gas Distribution Service Line Replacement Alternatives Program, on or before January 1, 2028, to provide certain residential gas customers served by a gas distribution service line that will be replaced with a monetary incentive to deploy gas distribution service line replacement alternatives and cease gas service to avoid the gas distribution service line replacement.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes and vests the CPUC with regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas and electrical corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)

2) Requires the CPUC to require each gas corporation to provide bundled basic gas service to all core customers in its service territory unless the customer chooses or contracts to have natural gas purchased and supplied by another entity. (Public Utilities Code §328.2)

3) Requires every public utility to furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities, …as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public. (Public Utilities Code §451)

4) Authorizes a gas corporation to cease providing service in an area within its service territory where a pilot project, pursuant to Public Utilities Code §663, has been implemented and the CPUC determines that adequate substitute energy service is reasonably available to support the energy end uses of affected gas corporation customers. (Public Utilities Code §459)

5) Requires the CPUC, in consultation with the state's gas corporations, to establish a voluntary program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, not to exceed 30 pilot projects across the state. (Public Utilities Code §663)

6) Requires the CPUC to require each gas corporation to provide bundled basic gas service to all core customers in its service territory, unless the customer chooses or contracts to have natural gas purchased and supplied by another entity. (Public Utilities Code §963)

This bill:

1) Establishes the Home Energy Choice Act, which requires the CPUC, in a new or existing proceeding, to solicit proposals for, and require each gas corporation to offer, a Gas Distribution Service Line Replacement Alternatives Program, on or before January 1, 2028, to provide certain residential gas customers served by a gas distribution service line that will be replaced with a monetary incentive to deploy gas distribution service line replacement alternatives, as defined, and cease gas service to avoid the gas distribution service line replacement, as specified.

2) Requires the CPUC to exempt from the program the emergency replacement of a gas distribution service line.

3) Requires the CPUC to annually review the program to determine whether adjustments should be made to program design to increase program participation.

4) Requires the CPUC, on or before January 1, 2029, and annually thereafter, to report to the Legislature on the progress of each implemented program, as provided.

5) Limits customer enrollment in the program to no more than 1% of the utility's service territory, including customers enrolled in zonal neighborhood decarbonization program.

6) Repeals its provisions on January 1, 2035.

Background

Natural gas utility service. Natural gas is transported to California customers via a system of interstate and common carrier transmission and distribution pipelines, and underground storage fields. Most natural gas consumed in state is delivered from out-of-state sources. Approximately 77% of California's homes receive natural gas utility service (just over 11 million households of a total of 14.5 million); additionally, about 450,000 commercial customers and another nearly 36,000 industrial customers receive gas service, based on the data (2021) from the Energy Information Administration. Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) provide gas utility service to about 5.9 million and 4.5 million customer service connections, respectively, while San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) provides service to over 800,000 customer service connections and a few additional smaller gas investor-owned utilities (IOUs) provide service, including Southwest Gas and West Coast Gas. Additionally, there are a few publicly owned (POU) gas utilities serving the cities of Coalinga, Long Beach, Susanville, and Vernon [who are not economically regulated by the CPUC]. The state's natural gas utilities operate over 100,000 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines, including what is referred to as the "back-bone," and thousands more miles of service lines. According to a 2021 CPUC Staff Proposal, most gas used by the residential sector is for space and water heating, with smaller percentages used for cooking, fireplaces, clothes drying, and a few other functions.

Dual fuel homes – those using both gas and electricity – are the dominant type of home in California. California is the state with the highest percentage of households using natural gas for cooking (70%), according to a 2020 analysis from the Energy Information Administration.

Reducing GHGs from the building sector. The California Air Resources Board *2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan* identifies actions to reduce GHG emissions from the building sector, including progressively improving building codes and standards, pursuing voluntary efforts to exceed code requirements, and completing existing building retrofits. The Scoping Plan also noted that "achieving carbon neutrality must include transitioning away from fossil gas in residential and commercial buildings, and will rely primarily on advancing energy efficiency while replacing gas appliances with non-combustion alternatives. This transition must include the goal of trimming back the existing gas infrastructure, so pockets of gas-fueled residential and commercial buildings do not require ongoing maintenance of the entire limb for gas delivery."

CPUC actions to support State's climate goals. California's agencies are taking steps toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 and meeting the state's ambitious 2030 GHG emissions reduction target, including with actions specific to reducing emissions from the building sector. The CPUC, in particular, has taken various actions to support the state's GHG reduction goals, while protecting ratepayers to ensure safe, reliable, and reliable natural gas utility sector, including:

- Eliminated financial subsidies available to builders to offset the costs of extending natural gas lines to serve new buildings, known as allowances which are funded by natural gas utility customers.
- Required natural gas investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to seek CPUC approval of projects via an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) prior to commencing construction on any gas infrastructure project whose cost exceeds $75 million.
- Required natural gas corporations to file annual reports detailing planned long-term infrastructure projects exceeding $50 million.
- Reduced incentives for natural gas energy efficiency measures in residential and commercial new construction to align more closely with the state's GHG reduction, climate change mitigation, and decarbonization goals.

SB 1221 (Min, Chapter 602, Statutes of 2022) authorized limited pilot projects within gas utility service territory for neighborhood scale decarbonization. SB 1221 authorized up to 30 targeted pilot projects to provide learnings and greater

understanding of the challenges to transition away from the natural gas utility system to electrification at the neighborhood level. The pilot projects are voluntary to natural gas utilities, require consent from a super-majority of affected customers (66.66%), and require the projects to be more cost-effective for ratepayers as compared to proposed upgrades needed on the natural gas system. SB 1221 also ensured that where a pilot project is implemented, the natural gas corporation can cease providing service with no continued obligation to serve, thereby protecting ratepayers from having to rebuild the system in the future. The CPUC has recently adopted maps for priority neighborhoods as required by SB 1221. The agency has required public workshops and is also actively pursuing efforts towards developing pilot projects with stakeholder participation.

Obligation to serve. The concept of a regulatory compact recognizes a set of mutual rights, obligations, and benefits between utilities and their customers. Utilities are granted exclusive service franchise (service territories), and in exchange accept the responsibility to serve everyone in the territory (obligation to serve everyone willing to pay) and submit to rate-regulation by an economic regulator (the CPUC) where the utility has the opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return. A utility's obligation to serve is noted in various statues and Constitutional provisions, most notably, in Public Utilities Code §451 which requires utilities "to furnish and maintain… adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service." A number of statutes also provide requirements for how a utility must discontinue service, including provisions related to nonpayment by a customer.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author:

> If we're going to meet our goal of creating a more affordable and sustainable California, we need to encourage electrification and ease the economic barriers to clean energy. Gas utilities plan to spend millions of ratepayer dollars in coming years to replace aging gas service lines. AB 2313, the Home Energy Choice Act, will give homeowners with a planned service line replacement the option to instead discontinue their gas service and use a portion of those funds to electrify their home. This bill is focused on a subset of pipeline replacement projects, at a point where we can reduce costs for all utility customers, avoid stranded assets, and expand energy choices for Californians. By redirecting funds that utilities would otherwise spend on fossil fuel infrastructure, the

Home Energy Choice Act will protect the environment, promote public health, and provide long-term savings for all ratepayers.

Bill proposes to provide customers with the option to decline utility service line upgrades. This bill proposes to establish a Gas Distribution Service Line Replacement Alternatives Program, on or before January 1, 2028, to provide residential natural gas IOU customers served by a distribution service line that will be replaced with a monetary incentive to deploy gas distribution service line replacement alternatives and cease gas service to avoid the gas distribution service line replacement**.** The effort is modeled after a similar program being implemented in New York, the Home Energy Choice Act which require gas utilities to offer customers facing a service line replacement an incentive to instead replace their gas appliances with electric alternatives. The service line could then be decommissioned rather than replaced. The proponents note that in PG&E's service territory, roughly 15,000 service lines are upgraded each year. Given the long-lived asset life of these upgrades, they contend alternative options can be provided to customers on a voluntary basis that would decommission the utility service line from the home to the main line. They argue that such an effort is complementary to the SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization efforts, as these projects would be on an individual customer-by-customer basis, as opposed to a neighborhood scale.

Concerns that safety and reliability will be jeopardized. Opponents of this bill raise concerns about jeopardizing the existing natural gas utility system, including reliability and safety, as well as costs to customers. Opponents of this bill, including the Utility Workers Union of America Locals 132, 483, and 522, who represent thousands of natural gas utility skilled workers raise concerns that this bill does not reflect how gas infrastructure work is performed in the field, and how it is generally planned and sequenced. Therefore, customer service line replacements are not standalone activities, as they are typically performed as part of larger, coordinated infrastructure projects which can be driven by federal safety requirements, including those under the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The bill attempts to address safety concerns by exempting emergency service line replacements from the voluntary customer program established by the bill in order to ensure safety upgrades are conducted on these emergency projects. Opponents contend these protections are not sufficient to address safety concerns.

Protecting Ratepayers. This bill would provide customers who elect to decline a natural gas utility service upgrade with the opportunity to receive financial incentives to electrify, including funding for electric appliances based on the

avoided cost of the gas distribution service line replacement. The Utility Workers Union of America Locals 132, 483, and 522 raises concerns that removing an individual service line may not provide meaningful cost savings given that these projects are embedded within large projects whose primary costs (such as engineering, permitting, traffic control) remain unchanged. They contend such approaches would saddle other customers with costs to implement the program, particularly as it is likely customers with greater financial resources are more likely to take advantage of electrification opportunities. Similar to SB 1221, this bill limits the customer enrollment to no more than 1% of the natural gas IOU's customers in its service territory (including those in the SB 1221 neighborhood zonal decarbonization pilot projects).

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 1359 (Stern, 2025) requires the CPUC, before authorizing recovery of costs associated with a gas distribution infrastructure replacement and upgrade project, to consider whether cost-effective electrification alternatives or nonpipeline alternatives could reasonably avoid or reduce the costs. The bill is pending in the Assembly.

SB 1221 (Min, Chapter 602, Statutes of 2024) authorized 30 pilot projects where cost-effective decarbonization of priority neighborhoods meeting specified criteria can be implemented, if the CPUC determines adequate substitute energy is available, among other requirements. The bill also required specified mapping of the natural gas utility distribution system and requires the identification of priority decarbonization neighborhood zones, authorizes gas corporations to cease providing service within the 30 pilot projects, among other provisions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown ongoing costs, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (ratepayer funds), for the CPUC to staff the proceeding needed to create a Gas Distribution Service Line Replacement Alternatives Program for each utility, provide advisory support for determining cost-effective incentives and program design, oversee implementation and potential revisions to the program, and prepare annual reports to the Legislature — among other things.
- To the extent that this bill impacts energy rates, it could result in costs or savings to the state as a ratepayer. The State of California is a natural gas

customer, purchasing roughly four percent of the gas sold by the state's utilities. As such, the state incurs costs when rates increase, and realizes cost savings if rates go down (various funds).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Earthjustice (Co-source)
Natural Resource Defense Council (Co-source)
Vice-Mayor Igor Tregub, City of Berkeley
350: Berkeley Hub, Conejo / San Fernando Valley, Humboldt: Grass Roots Climate Action, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Barbara, South Bay Los Angeles, So Cal Climate Action and Southland Legislative Alliance
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
Active San Gabriel Valley
Advanced Energy United
All-Electric California
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Lung Association
Asian Pacific Environmental Network Action
Ban Single Use Plastic
Breathe California of Los Angeles County
Building Decarbonization Coalition Action Fund
California Community Choice Association
California Democratic Party
California Environmental Justice Alliance Action
California Environmental Voters
California Green New Deal Coalition
California Interfaith Power & Light
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice
California Public Interest Research Group
Carbon Free Palo Alto
Carbon Free Silicon Valley
Center for Biological Diversity Action Fund
Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Chris Duncan Architect
City and County of San Francisco
City of Berkley

City of San Jose
City of San Luis Obispo
City of Sunnyvale
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County
CleanEarth4Kids.org
Clean Power Alliance
Climate Action California
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Future California
Climate Health Now Action Fund
Coalition for Clean Air
College Democrats at UC Irvine
Cool the Earth
County of Marin
County of Santa Clara
Courage California
Democrats of Greater Irvine
E2
Efficiency First California
Elders Climate Action
Electrify the Rebuild Resilient Palisades
Fallbrook Climate Action Team
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Green Change
GRID Alternatives
Harvest Thermal
HED
Irvine Valley College Democrats
Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
LIFT Economy
Local Government Climate Alliance
Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
Marin Electrification Council
Marin Clean Energy
Menlo Spark
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners - San Francisco Bay Area and Orange County Chapters
Peninsula Clean Energy
Physicians for Social Responsibility/Sacramento
QuitCarbon

Reclaim Our Power!
Redwood Energy
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
Resource Renewal Institute
Rewiring America
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
San Diego Building Electrification Coalition
San Diego Community Power
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Francisco Climate Emergency Coalition
San Jose Clean Energy
Sierra Club California
Silicon Valley Clean Energy
Solano County Democratic Center Committee
Sonoma Clean Power
Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authorities
South Bay Progressive Alliance
Southern California Edison
SPUR
StopWaste
Sunrise Movement Orange County
Sustainable Mill Valley
The Climate Center
The Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, San Fernando Valley Chapters
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
Urban Environmentalists
USGBC California
Vote Solar
Women for American Values and Ethics
2 Individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)
BOMA California
California Business Properties Association
Coalition of California Utility Employees
Commercial Real Estate Development Association
Engineers and Scientists of California, Local 20 IFPTE

Institute of Real Estate Management
San Diego Gas and Electric Company
Southern California Gas Company
Southwest Gas
Utility Workers Union of America Locals 132, 483, and 522

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A coalition of organizations, including the Building Decarbonization Coalition Action Fund, Earthjustice, and NRDC, state:

> By redirecting funds that gas utilities would otherwise spend on replacing gas service lines, the Home Energy Choice Act will reduce barriers to electrification, further California's public health, air quality and climate objectives, and reduce risk for all gas customers. Gas service lines are the pipelines that connect a gas main pipeline running down a street to individual buildings. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) replaces approximately 15,000 gas service lines each year, the vast majority of which connect to a single home. Utilities profit off of gas service line replacements, the costs of which are paid for by all gas customers in their gas bills over 55 to 60 years. This means that a gas service line replaced today would not be paid off until after 2080, decades after California's 2045 carbon neutrality target, creating significant risks the pipeline will no longer be needed before it is fully paid off. Participation is entirely voluntary. Eligible gas customers would simply have the option to take advantage of monetary incentives to help them upgrade their home with modern electric appliances like heat pumps and realize the health and safety benefits of improved indoor air quality and access to cooling. All gas customers would benefit by avoiding the significant stranded asset risks of continued long-term capital investments in the gas system.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas Company state:

> The bill takes considerations for granted. AB 2313 proposes redirecting pipeline safety funding toward home electrification subsidies, even though gas service line replacements are typically larger, federally mandated (49 CFR Part 192) projects that rely on risk-based planning, coordinated construction, and regulatory certainty to address safety risks efficiently. By adding new approval layers and procedural requirements, the bill risks disrupting these safety-driven workflows, introducing delays and fragmenting projects designed to mitigate known risks. …AB 2313 attempts to address cost-shifting through a vaguely defined "mechanism," but does not clearly explain how it would work or ensure

that remaining customers are held harmless. …AB 2313 establishes a program framework before California has the data needed to design it responsibly. …California should not establish a programmatic framework for customer gas service disconnection and electrification incentives before the State has the benefit of data from existing pilot efforts, before equity, and affordability issues are resolve, and before statutory safeguards clearly ensure that nonparticipating customers are protected.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-21, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Papan, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Ávila Farías, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Calderon, Carrillo, Gipson, Mark González, Nguyen, Pacheco, Patel, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Valencia

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/21/26 15:53:13

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2318
Author: Elhawary (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-19, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Law enforcement: facilitating medical care

SOURCE: Voters of Tomorrow

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from denying, delaying, obstructing, or failing to facilitate access to medical evaluation or treatment for an individual under law enforcement control when certain conditions are met, and requires law enforcement to document the basis for a denial within 72 hours of the incident, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States the intent of the Legislature that the authority to use physical force, conferred on peace officers by existing law, is a serious responsibility that shall be exercised judiciously and with respect for human rights and dignity and for the sanctity of every human life, and that every person has a right to be free from excessive use of force by officers acting under color of law. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 835a, subd. (a)(1).)

2) Includes a legislative finding and declaration that the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated carefully and thoroughly, in a manner that reflects the gravity of that authority and the serious consequences of the use of force by peace officers, in order to ensure that officers use force consistent with law and agency policies. (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (a)(3).)

3) Authorizes a peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a person to be arrested has committed a public offense to use objectively reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. (Pen. Code, § 835a, subd. (b).)

4) Permits a peace officer who is authorized to make an arrest and who has stated their intention to do so, to use all necessary means to effect the arrest if the person to be arrested either flees or forcibly resists. (Pen. Code, § 843.)

5) Authorizes a peace officer to release a person arrested without a warrant, instead of taking the person before a magistrate, if, among other reasons, the person was arrested only for being under the influence and the person is delivered to a facility or hospital for treatment and no further proceedings are desirable, the person was arrested for driving under the influence and the person is delivered to a hospital for medical treatment that prohibits immediate delivery before a magistrate, the person was arrested and subsequently delivered to a hospital or other urgent care facility, as specified, and no further proceedings are desirable, or the person was arrested and subsequently delivered or referred to a public health or social service organization that provides services including medical care, and the organization agrees to accept the delivery or referral, and no further proceedings are desirable. (Pen. Code, § 849, subd. (b)(3)-(6).)

6) Requires each law enforcement agency to maintain a policy that provides a minimum standard on the use of force which, among other elements, must include all of the following:

   a) A requirement that an officer may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance.

   b) A requirement that an officer intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, taking into account the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject.

c) A requirement that officers promptly provide, if properly trained, or otherwise promptly procure medical assistance for persons injured in a use of force incident, when reasonable and safe to do so. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 7286, subd. (b).)

7) Prohibits a law enforcement agency from authorizing the use of a carotid restraint, as defined, by any peace officer employed by that agency. (Gov. Code, § 7286.5, subd. (a).)

8) Prohibits a law enforcement agency from authorizing techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia. (Gov. Code, §7286.5, subd. (b).)

9) Authorizes a court to order the removal of a prisoner confined in any city or county jail to a hospital when it is made to appear by any judge by affidavit of the sheriff or district attorney and oral testimony that a prisoner requires medical or surgical treatment necessitating hospitalization, which treatment cannot be furnished at the city or county jail. (Pen. Code, § 4011, subd. (a).)

10) Authorizes a sheriff or jailer, who determines that a prisoner in a county jail or a city jail is in need of immediate medical or hospital care, and that the health and welfare of the prisoner will be injuriously affected unless the prisoner is removed to a hospital, to remove the prisoner to a hospital, without first obtaining a court order, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 4011.5.)

11) Requires each law enforcement agency to report to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on a monthly basis all instances when a peace officer employed by that agency is involved in specified incidents, including an incident involving the shooting of a civilian by a peace officer, the shooting of a peace officer by a civilian, the use of force by a peace officer against a civilian that results in serious bodily injury or death, and use of force by a civilian against a peace officer that results in serious bodily injury or death, and to include specified information relating to the incident, including whether any medical aid was rendered. (Gov. Code, § 12525.2, subds. (a) & (b)(12).)

12) Provides that in any case in which a person dies while in the custody of a law enforcement agency or a local or state correctional facility, the applicable agency shall report in writing to the Attorney General, within 10 days after the death, all facts in the possession of the agency concerning the death. (Gov. Code, § 12525, subd. (a).)

13) Provides that if any of the in-custody death report changes or if new information becomes available regarding the death, including, but not limited to, the manner and means of death, the agency shall update its written report to the Attorney General within 10 days of the date of the change or the date the new information becomes available. (Gov. Code, § 12525, subd. (b).)

14) Provides that when a person in custody dies, the agency with jurisdiction over the state or local correctional facility with custodial responsibility for the person at the time of their death shall post specified information on its website for the public to view within 10 days of the date of death. (Pen. Code, § 10008, subds. (a) & (b).)

15) Defines "in custody death," for purposes of the above reporting requirement, to mean the death of a person who is detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested, is in route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, state-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the state, any state or local contract facility, or other local or state correctional facility, including any juvenile facility. "In-custody death" also includes deaths that occur in medical facilities while in law-enforcement custody. (Pen. Code, § 10008.)

This bill:

1) Provides that it is unlawful for any law enforcement officer to deny, delay, obstruct, or fail to facilitate access to medical evaluation or treatment for an individual under law enforcement control if it is safe and reasonable to provide access to the treatment and a medical professional has been requested or is present and is willing to render care to the individual.

2) Specifies that the above prohibition does not apply to an individual in the custody of, or detained by, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

3) Provides that to the extent that documenting the incident does not compromise an ongoing investigation or officer safety, if access to medical evaluation or treatment is denied or delayed when a medical professional is present and is willing to assist, law enforcement shall document the basis for the denial within 72 hours of the incident and include the following information:

   a) The basis for denial or delay.

   b) A detailed incident narrative that includes, but is not limited to, time of the incident, location of the incident, and personnel involved in the incident.

c) Any available supporting evidence, including body-worn camera footage, radio transmissions, or written incident reports.

4) Provides that incident reporting shall be provided to either the relevant civilian oversight body responsible for reviewing law enforcement conduct or the Office of the Inspector General.

5) Specifies that failure to comply with the above provisions may result in administrative discipline, including suspension or termination.

Comments

Aggressive tactics have been one of the hallmarks of federal immigration enforcement during President Trump's second term, especially here in California. Hundreds of federal agents conducted raids and immigration sweeps across Los Angeles, detaining and arresting individuals through "at large" arrests on the street, and often through blatant racial profiling. Federal agents often conducted raids in civilian clothing or military uniforms, and often while masked, heavily armed, and without providing identification. There have also been numerous reports of federal agents using excessive force and causing injury and property damage while conducting these raids, as well as reports that agents have denied those detained access to legal counsel. Such tactics were also on full display during Operation Metro Surge, a joint operation of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) that took place throughout Minnesota (though primarily in the Twin Cities area) beginning in December 2025 and concluding early February 2026. During this operation, federal immigration officials employed harsh, confrontational, and arguably illegal tactics to make arrests, serve warrants, conduct raids and contain protesters. Operation Metro Surge also resulted in the shooting of three civilians by federal immigration agents, two of which were fatal: the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good.

The author cites the killing of Renee Good as the driving force behind this bill. After the shooting, witnesses to the scene claimed that federal officers impeded emergency medical personnel from accessing the scene by blocking the road with their vehicles. A video from the scene shows that a man who identified himself as a physician attempted to check Renee Good for a pulse, but was rejected by the federal officers who claimed they had their own medics. Ultimately, firefighters began lifesaving measures, and Ms. Good was transported to a local medical center, where she passed away.

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) policy on the use of force, which was updated in February 2023, sets forth the standards and guidelines that DHS officers must follow in an array of scenarios, including the provision of medical care. Specifically, the policy provides that:

> As soon as practicable following a use of force and the end of any perceived public safety threat, DHS law enforcement officers shall obtain appropriate medical assistance for any subject who has visible or apparent injuries, complaints of being injured, or requests medical attention. This may include rendering first aid if properly trained and equipped to do so, requesting emergency medical services, and/or arranging transportation to an appropriate medical facility.

This policy also requires DHS offices employing law enforcement officers to provide annual trainings to those officers regarding the affirmative duty to request and/or render medical aid following the use of force, and the affirmative duty to intervene if an officer is misusing force or using excessive force, among other topics.

California law enforcement agencies are also subject to certain medical assistance requirements pursuant to existing law regarding permissible use of force. In 2019, California refined its use of force statutes in order to provide clearer guidance to law enforcement and the public, specifically regarding when the use of deadly force is appropriate. Namely, AB 392 (Weber, Chapter 170, Statutes of 2019), specified the circumstances in which deadly force is and is not appropriate, and SB 230 (Caballero, Chapter 285, Statutes of 2019), required law enforcement agencies to update their training and policies with specific requirements regarding use of force, including a requirement "that officers promptly provide, if properly trained, or otherwise promptly procure medical assistance for persons injured in a use of force incident, when reasonable and safe to do so." Pursuant to SB 230, agency policies must also include training and guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, children, elderly persons, people who are pregnant, and people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

SB 230 also required California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to implement a course of training in the use of force, although notably, the training is not required to include instruction on procurement of medical assistance for persons injured as the result of a use of force. However, in response to SB 230, POST developed new use of force standards and guidelines, which "include the statewide minimum standards law enforcement executives are now required to

incorporate into their agency's use of force policy." The singular standard related to medical aid provides, in relevant part:

> The highest priority of officers is safeguarding the life, dignity, and liberty of all persons, without prejudice to anyone. Officers have a duty, as soon as it safe and practical, to provide or request medical aid. As such, an agency's policy shall require that officers promptly provide, if properly trained, or otherwise promptly procure medical assistance for persons injured in a use of force incident, when reasonable and safe to do so. […] Whenever a person requires or reasonably requests medical attention after a use of force incident, an officer should request medical aid (such as calling for emergency medical services) and/or if properly trained, provide medical attention (such as first aid and/or transport to an emergency medical facility), as soon as feasible.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> Potential costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative work for state law enforcement entities. The fiscal impact is difficult to quantify due to the capacity for administrative, civil or criminal penalties for any failure to comply with the provisions of the bill. Written documentation within 72-hours each time an officer delays or denies access to medical care may equate into thousands of new reports annually, expanded review, storage and oversight systems that likely would result in a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative work. Likely greater impacts on local law enforcement entities. Penalty and reporting costs for each instance will likely be low, but costs could be significant in the aggregate statewide, with actual costs dependent on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (special funds, General Fund)
>
> Potentially significant costs to POST to the extent the curriculum update triggers additional training hours that agencies claim for reimbursement. The Peace Officer Training Fund (POTF) has a structural deficit as criminal fine and penalty assessment collections have declined, and POST's operations are increasingly supported by General Fund appropriations. (Peace Officers Training Fund, General Fund)

Minor and absorbable costs to POST to incorporate the new guidance into existing training curricula. POST reports that California peace officers are already required to render first aid in use-of-force situations under existing law and POST guidelines, and that the bill is largely duplicative of existing requirements. (General Fund)

Minor and absorbable costs to the Office of the Inspector General to review law enforcement conduct. (General Fund)

Costs of an unknown but likely minor and ongoing amount for local law enforcement agencies to prepare the required 72-hour documentation in cases where access to medical care is denied or delayed while a medical professional is present, subject to the bill's investigation- and safety-based disclosure carve-out. The volume of work depends on how frequently denial or delay occurs in practice. Costs will depend on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Voters of Tomorrow (source)
A New Path
ACLU California Action
Alameda; City of
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Black Power Network
California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
California Coalition for Sheriff Oversight
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Community Foundation
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Latino Legislative Caucus
California Public Defenders Association
California School Employees Association
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Community Health Project LA
Community Works
Community Works West
Courage California

Disability Rights California
Drug Policy Alliance
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Fair Chance Project
Families Inspiring Reentry & Reunification 4 Everyone
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Glide
Healthright 360
Justice2jobs Coalition
LA Defensa
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership
Peace and Justice Law Center
Pillars of the Community
Rubicon Programs
San Francisco Public Defender
San Quentin Skunkworks
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Smart Justice California, a Project of Beyond Impact
Starting Over INC.
Sustainable Economies Law Center
The Sidewalk Project
Transitions Clinic Network
United EMS Workers, Afscme Local 4911

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
California Peace Officers' Association
California Police Chiefs Association
California State Sheriffs' Association
Chief Probation Officers of California
Peace Officers Research Association of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-19, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva,

Ransom, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bennett, Castillo, Pacheco, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Soria

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/17/26 11:13:23

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2319
Author: Schultz (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/24/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-3, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: credits: qualified motion picture: post-production

SOURCE: The California Post Alliance & the Motion Picture Editors Guild

DIGEST: This bill enacts the California Post-production Tax Credit program, authorizing a credit under the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes for qualified expenses relating to the post-production of a qualified motion picture in California.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 (1) Modify several requirements to improve implementation of the credit by the California Film Commission (CFC); (2) Import provisions from the Motion Picture and Television Production 4.0 credit program; (3) Replace the first-come-first-served allocation award process with a ranking system based on applicant's "post-production services ratio," as defined; (4) Specify that CFC must promulgate regulations to administer and enforce the requirements of the credit; and (5) Make other technical and conforming changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows various income tax credits and deductions, as well as sales and use tax exemptions.

2) Limits the total of all business credits, including credit carry forwards, to $5 million or 50% of liability, whichever is greater, commencing in the 2024 taxable year and ending before the 2030 taxable year, after which limits credits to $5 million or 75% of liability, whichever is greater, with some exceptions (SB 167, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 34, Statutes of 2024 and SB 122, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2026). Taxpayers can make an irrevocable election to receive an annual refundable credit claimed in future tax years for business credits equal to credit amounts not claimed due to the limitation.

3) Enacts the Film & Television Tax Credit Program 4.0 program, which authorizes a tax credit against the Personal Income and Corporation Taxes for qualified motion picture production in California, directing California Film Commission (CFC) to allocate $750 million in credits each fiscal year (FY) starting in 2025-26 and continuing through 2029-30 (SB 132 Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 56, Statutes of 2023; SB 132, Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Chapter 17, Statutes of 2025; AB 1138, Zbur, Chapter 27, Statutes of 2025).

4) Provides that a "qualified motion picture" includes:

   a) A feature with a minimum production budget of at least $1 million; however, no more than $120 million in qualified expenditures count for purposes of generating the credit.

   b) An independent film, defined as a motion picture that is produced by a company that is neither publicly traded, nor more than 30% owned by publicly traded companies.

   c) A television series that relocated to California.

   d) A live action or animated series produced in California with a run time of 20 minutes or more on average, with a minimum budget of $1 million per episode.

   e) Animated films produced in California with a $1 million budget or more.

   f) A large-scale competition show produced in California with a minimum budget of $1 million per episode.

   g) A pilot for a new live action or animated series with a run time of 20 minutes or more on average, produced in California with a minimum budget of $1 million per episode.

5) Authorizes CFC to allocate credits to "qualified motion pictures" that satisfy the following general requirements:

   a) Have 75% of the motion picture shooting days in California, or have 75% of the production budget incurred within the state;

   b) Commence principal photography after the date CFC approves its application, but before 180 days after the date of approval, and finish within 18 months from the date when the application was approved by the CFC;

   c) Obtain a copyright from the United States Copyright Office; and

   d) Provide a workplace diversity plan checklist.

This bill:

1) Enacts the California Post-production Tax Credit program, authorizing a credit under the Personal Income and the Corporation Taxes, to a "qualified taxpayer" for qualified post-production expenditures of a "qualified motion picture" in California, to be allocated by the CFC, to applicants on or after July 1, 2027, and before July 1, 2032, in four or more allocation periods per fiscal year (FY).

2) Provides that the credit shall be an amount equal to the sum of:

   a) 35% of qualified expenditures attributable to "qualified editorial expenditures," as defined, subject to the following credit limitations:

      i) Up to $6 million for qualified expenditures, unrelated to visual effects.

      ii) Up to $6 million for qualified expenditures relating to visual effects.

   b) An aggregate amount, not to exceed 15% of qualified expenditures, as follows:

      i) 5% of qualified expenditures relating to post-production outside the Los Angeles (LA) zone, as specified;

      ii) 10% of qualified expenditures for qualified wages relating to post-production outside of the LA zone to "qualified individuals;" and

      iii) 15% of qualified expenditures relating to qualified music scoring.

   c) An additional 5% of qualified expenditures if 50% or more of production days were performed in state.

3) Caps the aggregate amount of credits that may be allocated per FY, at an amount authorized in a Budget Act, for FY 2027-28 and through FY 2032-33.

4) Requires the credit to be administered in the same manner as the Film & Television Tax Credit Program 4.0, except as specified.

5) Specifies that the credit shall not be allowed for a motion picture for which a credit has been claimed under the 4.0 program.

6) Requires CFC to allocate the annual credit amounts as follows:

   a) 50% to features, independent films, and animated films.

   b) 50% to television series, miniseries, limited series, and animated series.

   c) Provides an additional 5% of qualified expenditures if at least 50% of below-the-line production wages are for services performed in the state.

7) Requires CFC to reserve 85% of the total aggregate credits allocable for the year for applicants that demonstrate meeting specified labor standards:

   a) Provides wages for employees in California that are, on average, equal to or more than the average weekly wage rate for similar workers.

   b) Provides, or contributes to, employer-paid health and welfare benefits and pension contributions for direct-hire employees performing services in state.

   c) Participates in a CFC approved career-based learning and training program.

   d) Complies with reporting requirements established by the CFC, including reporting related to diversity, anti-harassment, and workforce composition.

   e) Directly employs at least one employee providing qualified services in state.

   f) Provides that deviation from the above criteria shall not be disqualifying if such deviation is required to comply with a collective bargaining agreement.

8) Requires that applicants provide a self-attestation, under penalty of perjury, confirming that they will satisfy all specified requirements for the qualified motion picture.

9) Requires CFC to promulgate regulations and an appropriate penalty for failure to meet the commitments identified in the self-attestation.

10) Requires CFC, when allocating the credit, to list each applicant from highest to lowest according to the post-production services ratio as computed by the CFC, and to then allocate the credit to each applicant with the highest post-production services ratio, working down the list until the credit amount is exhausted.

11) Provides that a qualified taxpayer may make a one-time election to make the credit refundable for each taxable year of the "refundable period," not to exceed the "annual refundable amount."

    a) The "refundable period" means the first taxable year the credit certificate is issued to the qualified taxpayer and the succeeding four taxable years.

    b) The "annual refundable amount" is 20% of the "total refundable amount."

    c) The "total refundable amount" is equal to 90% of the credit amount that exceeds the tax liability in the first taxable year of the refundable period.

12) Requires CFC to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to adapt the existing Career Readiness requirements of the Film & Television Tax Credit Program 4.0 to this credit; provides that a qualified taxpayer must participate in Career Readiness only to the extent the program has been adapted to post-production pursuant to regulations promulgated by CFC.

13) Establishes a diversity assessment requirement, mirroring the Film 4.0 program, requiring CFC to review this data separately from the diversity workplan and assessment process.

14) Defines "qualified taxpayer" as a taxpayer or a disregarded single-member limited liability company, that has "qualified expenditures," fulfilled the Career Readiness requirement, and been issued a credit certificate by CFC.

15) Defines "qualified expenditures" as amounts paid or incurred for:

    a) Tangible personal property purchased or leased, and used, within this state;

    b) Services performed within this state; and

    c) Music orchestration services performed outside of the state if it is for music recorded in the state.

16) Specifies that "qualified expenditures" include only those amounts paid or incurred, for tangible personal property purchased or leased, used or otherwise consumed in this state, including qualified wages.

17) Defines "post-production" to mean both "editorial post-production" and "visual effects," as defined.

18) Defines "qualified motion picture" substantially similar to the 4.0 program, with the following differences:

    a) A feature, including an animated film and an independent film, with a minimum production budget of $1 million;

    b) A miniseries or limited series consisting of two or more episodes, each longer than 40 minutes of running time, exclusive of commercials, with a minimum production budget of $1 million per episode;

    c) A large-scale competition show, not including traditional reality, game shows, talk shows, or docufollow television programming, with a minimum production budget of $1 million per episode.

19) Defines "post-production services ratio" to mean the dollar amount for qualified wages divided by the dollar amount of tax credits, not including the credit uplifts allowed by this bill as computed by the CFC. For purposes of the calculation, "qualified wages" only includes 80% of the qualified wages paid to third-party vendors and excludes visual effects, as defined.

20) Authorizes CFC to allocate credits to "qualified motion pictures" that satisfy the substantially similar general requirements to the 4.0 Film program, with the following difference: at least 75%, or $1 million, whichever is greater, of post-production expenses are incurred for payment for services performed within the state and the purchase or rental of property used within the state;

21) Provides that the CFC must issue a credit certificate only after it has verified a qualified taxpayer's qualified expenditures and computed the post-production service ratio.

22) Specifies that if a qualified motion picture's actual post-production services ratio comes in more than 10% below what was represented on its application, the CFC must reduce the credit by that same percentage, unless the applicant can demonstrate reasonable cause for the shortfall, in which case CFC has discretion not to apply the reduction. This requirement mirrors the existing Film 4.0 program approach of holding applicants accountable to their attested figures.

23) Provides that the credit is allowed for the taxable year in which the CFC issues the credit certificate for the qualified motion picture.

24) Specifies that the amount of the credit allowed to a qualified taxpayer is limited to the amount specified in the credit certificate issued by the CFC.

25) Contains legislative findings and declarations to comply with Section 41 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

26) Makes other technical and conforming changes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The CFC indicates that it would incur annual implementation costs of $672,000 (General Fund).

- Assuming $100 million in tax credit allocations are authorized beginning in 2027-28, the Department of Finance (DOF) estimates this bill would reduce General Fund revenues by $2 million in 2027-28, $9.4 million in 2028-29, and $18.1 million in 2029-30, with additional revenue losses in subsequent years. DOF also estimates the bill would reduce sales tax revenues deposited into the Local Revenue Fund 2011 by $18,000 in 2027-28, $86,000 in 2028-29, and $1.6 million in 2029-30, with additional revenue losses in subsequent years.

- The Franchise Tax Board would incur administrative costs of $290,000 in 2026-27, $342,000 in 2027-28, and minor amounts annually thereafter, to implement the provisions of the bill (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Post Alliance (Co-Source)
Motion Picture Editors Guild (Co-Source)
California State Treasurer Fiona Ma
Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Lindsey P. Horvath, Supervisor, Los Angeles County
Tracy Park, Councilmember District 11, City of Los Angeles
#MakeItBay
American Cinema Editors
California Arts Advocates
California IATSE Council
City and County of San Francisco
City of Burbank

City of Emeryville
City of Los Angeles
City of Oakland
City of Santa Monica
City of West Hollywood
Company 3
Crafty Apes, LLC
Engine Room, LLC
Exceptional Minds
Film Consortium San Diego
Film Liaisons in California Statewide
Film SF
Formosa Group, LLC
Fox Entertainment Group, Inc.
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Green Watch Films
GSK Talent
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Kincade Productions, LLC
Monkeyland Audio, Inc.
Mosaic Post Production, LLC
Point 360
Recording Academy
SAG-AFTRA
Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation
Santa Monica Travel & Tourism
Showrunnr, Inc.
Signature Post Services, LLC
Television Academy
The Society of Composers and Lyricists
Trevanna Post, Inc.
Universal Music Group
YouthBeat
69 Individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "California has the most experienced post-production workforce in the world, but we are losing jobs and

projects to other states and countries that offer targeted incentives for post-production work. AB 2319 fills a gap in our current tax credit program by creating a post-production incentive that keeps high-skill jobs, small-business vendors, and production spending in California while complementing, not replacing, the existing Film and Television Tax Credit Program. A significant portion of the post-production industry has always relied on productions that are based overseas or otherwise outside of California coming back to California for post. This work sustains thousands of good, middle-class jobs. As proposed to be amended, a large share of the tax credit allocated under AB 2319 will go to jobs that uphold industry standards. However, credits will also be available to make AB 2319 accessible to emerging voices and artists who have traditionally struggled to find an entry point into the entertainment industry. These individuals often represent members of diverse backgrounds and underserved communities, and this portion of the bill provides them with an opportunity to contribute to California's creative economy. AB 2319 is designed to capture economic activity that would otherwise leave the state and to ensure that California remains competitive in an industry we helped create. California's post-production infrastructure represents a century of investment and tens of thousands of skilled jobs, and it is sitting underutilized while other states and countries capture work that belongs here. Every qualified project that completes post-production in New York or London instead of California is a direct transfer of high-wage jobs and taxable income out of this state. AB 2319 closes the incentive gap that is making that transfer possible."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-3, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Gallagher
NO VOTE RECORDED: Lee, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Haley Summers / REV. & TAX. / (916) 651-4117
8/24/26 12:49:43

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2321
Author: Ortega (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-17, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Occupational safety and health: investigations

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) strengthens workplace safety protections by revising case investigation, review and referral procedures for the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) and its Bureau of Investigations (BOI) to follow when responding to workplace injuries or fatalities; 2) revises procedures for case referral to prosecuting authorities; and 3) imposes misdemeanor penalties for interfering with a Cal/OSHA investigation.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26, among other things, 1) impose the penalty of a misdemeanor for willful interference with a Cal/OSHA investigation; 2) strike the immediate response required for investigations by the BOI to instead require them to "promptly" investigate; 3) require the BOI to investigate any accident where there is serious exposure, as specified; 4) require the BOI to report to the Legislature cases involving fatalities for which a prosecuting authority declined to prosecute, as specified; 5) strike the five-year pilot program which would have transferred investigative responsibilities from the BOI to the district attorneys in

Alameda and Santa Clara counties for workplace health and safety violations that result in death in those counties.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Under the California Occupational Safety and Health Act, assures safe and healthful working conditions for all California workers by authorizing the enforcement of effective standards, assisting and encouraging employers to maintain safe and healthful working conditions, and by providing for research, information, education, training, and enforcement in the field of occupational safety and health. (Labor Code §6300)

2) Establishes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (known as Cal/OSHA) within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to, among other things, propose, administer, and enforce occupational safety and health standards. (Labor Code §6300 et seq.)

3) Requires every employer to file a complete report with Cal/OSHA of every occupational injury or occupational illness to each employee which results in lost time beyond the date of the injury or illness, or which requires medical treatment beyond first aid. A report must be filed within five days after the employer obtains knowledge of the injury or illness. In addition to this report, in every case involving a serious injury or illness, or death, the employer is required to make an immediate report to Cal/OSHA by telephone or email. (Labor Code §6409.1)

4) Establishes the Bureau of Investigations (BOI) within Cal/OSHA and makes it responsible for directing accident investigations involving violations of laws, standards, and orders in which there is a serious injury to five or more employees, death, or request for prosecution by a division representative; reviewing inspection reports involving a serious violation if there have been serious injuries to one to four employees or a serious exposure; and may investigate cases where the BOI may find criminal violations have occurred; and preparing cases for the purpose of prosecution, as specified. (Labor Code §6315)

5) Requires Cal/OSHA to provide the BOI with all initial accident reports, the Cal/OSHA's inspection report for any inspection involving a serious violation if there is a fatality, as specified, and any other documents in Cal/OSHA's possession that are helpful to the investigation. (Labor Code § 6315)

6) Requires the BOI to refer the results of investigations it is required to conduct, in which there is a serious injury or death, to the appropriate prosecuting authority having jurisdiction for appropriate action unless it determines that there is legally insufficient evidence of a violation of the law. (Labor Code §6315(g))

7) Authorizes DIR, upon the request of a county district attorney, to develop a protocol for the referral of cases that may involve criminal conduct to the appropriate prosecuting authority in lieu of or in cooperation with an investigation by the BOI, as specified. (Labor Code §6315(i))

8) Requires the BOI to submit an annual report to Cal/OSHA, for submission to the director of DIR, on its activities including, among other things, a summary of investigations completed, as specified. (Labor Code §6315.3)

9) Establishes the Occupational Safety and Health Fund as a special account within the State Treasury and authorizes moneys in the account to be expended by the DIR, in support of Cal/OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, and the Occupational Safety and Health Appeals Board, and the activities these entities perform. (Labor Code §62.5(d))

This bill:

1) Makes any person who willfully resists, prevents, impedes, or interferes with the chief of Cal/OSHA or their authorized representative in the performance of their duties, as specified, or who in any manner willfully violates an order of the court relating to those duties is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail, not exceeding six months, or by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars ($5,000) or both.

2) Requires the BOI to promptly review inspection reports involving a serious violation and refer the results of an investigation to the appropriate prosecuting authority having jurisdiction for appropriate action, unless the BOI determines that there is legally insufficient evidence of a violation of the law.

3) Adds “serious exposure” to various provisions of law for which an employer can be held liable for willfully violations of occupational safety or health standards or orders.

4) Requires the BOI to investigate any accident in which there is a serious injury or illness or a *serious exposure* for which the division issues a citation of a willful violation.

5) Requires Cal/OSHA to immediately notify the appropriate prosecuting authority upon learning of an accident in which there is a serious injury or illness or serious exposure to five or more employees, death, or request for prosecution by a division representative, and requires Cal/OSHA and the BOI to cooperate with the prosecuting authority in the investigation.

6) Requires a state, county, or local fire or police agency, whenever they are called to an accident involving a serious injury, illness, or serious exposure, or death of an employee, to immediately, in addition to notifying Cal/OSHA, notify the district attorney's office in the county where the incident occurred.

7) Requires Cal/OSHA to immediately notify the BOI and the district attorney's office or other appropriate prosecuting authority of the accident, whether Cal/OSHA received notification by the responding agency, the employer, or by other means.

8) Authorizes Cal/OSHA to disclose information obtained in connection with any inspection or proceeding to law enforcement officers or prosecutors in any law enforcement investigation or prosecution.

9) Requires the BOI to establish written policies and procedures for reviewing cases and deciding whether to investigate or refer them for prosecution. Requires the policies and procedures to include a requirement that the bureau documents its rationale for not investigating or referring a case.

10) Requires Cal/OSHA to establish a routine or automated process for transmitting information to the BOI about cases with serious injuries or illnesses or serious exposures so that the BOI can review them.

11) Requires the BOI's annual report to Cal/OSHA, to additionally be submitted to the Legislature and include the total number of completed investigations referred to prosecuting authorities.
    a) If a case involving a fatality is referred by the BOI to the appropriate prosecuting authority but the prosecuting authority declines to prosecute due to an inadequate investigation by the BOI, requires the BOI to report that

decision and the reason therefor to the Legislature. Requires the specifics contained in that report to be kept confidential and not publicly available.

Background

As part of their enforcement responsibilities, Cal/OSHA investigates complaints of workplace hazards filed by employees, employee representatives, and others, as well as investigating reports of serious injury or illness violations or deaths. After receiving a complaint or learning of a worker fatality, injury or illness, Cal/OSHA personnel must decide whether to conduct an on-site inspection of a workplace and potentially issue citations and fines according to the results of the inspection.

In July 2025, the California State Auditor released an audit report on Cal/OSHA finding, among other things, that process deficiencies and staffing shortages have limit its ability to protect workers.[1] Among the audits key findings were that Cal/OSHA did not inspect some complaints and accidents, despite evidence that an inspection may have better protected workers. When it does conduct on-site inspections, the audit found that Cal/OSHA's process has critical weaknesses.

With regards to the BOI, the Cal/OSHA audit found that it lacked the policies and staffing necessary to ensure that it consistently refers cases for potential criminal prosecution. The auditor further reported that, due to understaffing, the BOI is essentially only investigating fatalities, leaving other cases of serious workplace injuries and safety issues unaddressed. According to the State Auditor, understaffing has been a key limitation on Cal/OSHA and the BOI's work. The State Auditor included various recommendations for improving Cal/OSHA, but specific to the BOI, the auditor recommended the following to ensure that the bureau refers cases for potential criminal prosecution when warranted:

- Establish written policies or procedures for how the bureau reviews cases, decides whether to investigate them, and decides whether to refer them for prosecution. This should include requiring the bureau to document a rationale for why it has decided not to investigate or not to refer each case.
- Establish a routine or automated process for the bureau to receive information about accident cases with non-fatal injuries so that it can review them in accordance with requirements in state law.

[1] *The Division of Occupational Safety and Health: Process Deficiencies and Staffing Shortages Limit Its Ability to Protect Workers.* California State Auditor. https://www.auditor.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2024-115-Report.pdf

Need for this bill? According to the author: "AB 2321 would implement some of the auditor's recommendations related to internal process improvements within Cal/OSHA and its BOI."

[NOTE: Please see the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee analysis on this bill for more background information and information on more prior and related legislation.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) would incur one-time implementation costs of an unknown amount for Cal/OSHA and BOI to develop required case review, referral, and case transmittal procedures, and likely minor ongoing costs for the BOI to report additional staffing vacancy information (Occupational Safety and Health Fund).

- By imposing specified new duties on the District Attorneys of Santa Clara and Alameda Counties, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but could exceed $50,000 per year (General Fund).

- This bill may result potentially significant cost pressures to the courts; the magnitude is unknown (Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF)). The specific number of new actions that could be filed under the bill also is unknown; however, it generally costs about $10,500 per day to operate a courtroom. Courts are not funded on the basis of workload, and increased pressure on TCTF may create a need for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The enacted 2026-27 budget includes $70 million in ongoing support from the General Fund to continue to backfill TCTF for revenue declines.

*Staff notes that recent amendments removing the Alameda and Santa Clara DA pilot program from the bill may impact the fiscal effect of the bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Alameda Labor Council
California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
California State Association of Electrical Workers

California State Pipe Trades Council
National Union of Healthcare Workers
Teamsters California
United Farm Workers
United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council
United Steelworkers District 12
Western States Council Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Chamber of Commerce

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Federation of Labor Unions:

"This [measure] ensures that the most egregious workplace tragedies get the attention they deserve and that employers are held accountable. It also frees up BOI staff to focus on the thousands of cases that are currently going uninvestigated – helping to catch safety issues earlier and prevent more serious workplace injuries.

AB 2321 also makes important process reforms within the BOI. The Bureau currently lacks written policies and procedures for reviewing cases and deciding whether to investigate or refer them for prosecution. Indeed, in many of the cases it reviewed, the auditor found that BOI investigators did not adequately document their rationale for referring a case or not. Furthermore, the BOI does not routinely receive information from Cal/OSHA inspectors about cases it is required to review. AB 2321 will require the BOI and Cal/OSHA to implement processes to ensure that investigators are receiving such cases, as well as to have clear instructions for performing their jobs."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The California Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the measure arguing:

"Recent amendments create a new problem for California employees and employers with AB 2321! August 21, 2026 amendments will make all sorts of new workplace injuries lead to criminal charges for employees or employers! This issue was not part of the bill at any point this year! Under current law, if a willful violation of a safety standard by an employee or employer causes death or prolonged impairment, then that employee or employer is guilty of a crime.

AB 2321 would broaden this criminal liability so that it occurs whenever any "serious injury" occurs – which can be as minor as a cut to a finger! This will put far more employees and employers at risk of criminal charges for what has been (and should be) a workplace safety issue with no clear justification! While we are sympathetic to AB 2321's focus on Cal/OSHA's failures in enforcement – we must oppose this expansion of criminal liability for employers and employees."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-17, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Ávila Farías, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Flora, Gallagher, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Ta

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8/24/26 12:10:30

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2322
Author: Papan (D)
Amended: 4/6/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 5-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Allen, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar
NOES: Valladares, Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-17, 5/18/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Water discharge: commercial, industrial, or institutional sites

SOURCE: California Coastkeeper Alliance

DIGEST: This bill defines "commercial industrial, or institutional site" or "CII site" based on county tax assessor land use codes for the purposes of issuing permits for the discharge of stormwater from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to regulate discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States (WOTUS) and to regulate quality standards for surface waters. (33 United States Code (USC) §§ 1251 et seq.)

2) Establishes, under the CWA, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, requiring the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to prescribe waste discharge requirements that,

among other things, regulate the discharge of pollutants into stormwater. (33 USC § 1342)

3) Requires operators, on and after October 1, 1994, for discharges composed entirely of stormwater, to obtain an NPDES permit under the CWA only if:

   a) The discharge is from a small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4), as specified;

   b) The discharge is a stormwater discharge associated with small construction activity;

   c) The Director, or in states with approved NPDES programs, either the Director or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Regional Administrator, determines that stormwater controls are needed for the discharge based on wasteload allocations that are part of "total maximum daily loads" (TMDLs) that address the pollutants of concern; or

   d) The Director, or in states with approved NPDES programs, either the Director or the U.S. EPA Regional Administrator, determines that the discharge, or category of discharges within a geographic area, contributes to a violation of a water quality standard or is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the U.S. (40 Code of Federal Regulations § 122.26(a)(9)(i)(D))

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne), which prohibits the discharge of pollutants to surface waters unless the discharger obtains a permit from the State Water Board; declares that the health, safety, and welfare of people require there to be a statewide program for water quality control and that the statewide program for water quality control can be most effectively administered regionally, within a framework of statewide coordination and policy. (Water Code (WC) §§ 13000 et seq.)

2) Establishes the State Water Board and nine Regional Water Boards to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. (WC §§ 13100 et seq.)

3) Prohibits the discharge of waste or pollutants to surface and ground waters unless the discharger obtains a permit from the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board. (WC §§ 13260 et seq.)

This bill:

1) Defines "commercial, industrial, or institutional site" or "CII site" to mean a privately owned parcel or contiguous parcels of land that are commercial, industrial, or institutional based on the appropriate county tax assessor land use codes for the purposes of issuing permits for the discharge of stormwater from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

2) Further specifies that "CII site" shall mean the commercial, institutional, or industrial portion of the mixed land use parcel for parcels with mixed use commercial and residential land use codes; and shall not include residential facilities of any type, as specified.

Background

1) *The NPDES Permit Program.* As authorized by the federal CWA, the NPDES Permit Program controls water pollution by regulating point sources—or discrete conveyances such as pipes, or human-made ditches—that discharge pollutants into waters of the U.S. Examples of pollutants include, but are not limited to, rock, sand, dirt, and agricultural, industrial, and municipal waste. In California, implementation of the NPDES Permit Program has been delegated to the State Water Board and nine Regional Water Boards, which maintain regional jurisdiction within boundaries that are based on major watersheds. While the State Water Board has issued some NPDES permits, the Regional Water Boards issue the vast majority of NPDES permits in the state and ensure compliance with their permits through inspections, monitoring report reviews, and enforcement actions.

   Because of their propensity to contain and mobilize pollutants, stormwater discharges are regulated through NPDES permits. The State Water Board oversees three statewide NPDES stormwater programs: the Industrial Stormwater Program, Construction Stormwater Program, and Municipal Stormwater Program. Below is a description of each:

   - *Industrial Stormwater Program.* The Industrial General Permit (IGP) regulates industrial stormwater discharges and authorized non-stormwater

discharges from industrial facilities in California. The IGP is called a "general permit" because many industrial facilities are covered by the same permit, but comply with its requirements at their individual industrial facilities. Industrial facilities such as manufacturers, landfills, mining, steam-generating electricity, hazardous waste facilities, transportation with vehicle maintenance, larger sewage and wastewater plants, recycling facilities, and oil and gas facilities are typically required to obtain IGP coverage;

- *Construction Stormwater Program.* Certain dischargers—those with projects that disturb one or more acres of soil, or projects that disturb less than one acre, but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres—are required to obtain coverage under the "General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity" (Construction General Permit). Construction activities subject to this permit include clearing, grading, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling or excavation. They do not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer; and,

- *Municipal Stormwater Program.* The State Water Board regulates stormwater discharges from MS4s throughout California. U.S. EPA defines an MS4 as a conveyance or system of conveyances, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, human-made channels, or storm drains. Under Phase I of the Municipal Stormwater Program, Regional Water Boards have adopted NPDES permits to regulate discharges from MS4s serving municipalities with over 100,000 people; under Phase II, the State Water Board has issued a waste discharge requirement to regulate discharges from small MS4s serving municipalities with less than 100,000 people.

2) *Residual designation authority.* The U.S. EPA and authorized states, like California, can designate other stormwater discharges to control stormwater pollutants under their "residual designation" authority. The U.S. EPA or the State and Regional Water Boards can require NPDES permits for other stormwater discharges on a *case-by-case basis* when it determines that discharges contribute to a violation of water quality standards, are a significant contributor to WOTUS, or are implicated by a TMDL.

Residual designations can also be requested by petition. There have been residual designations made by the U.S. EPA for small MS4 systems and the U.S. EPA has also received petitions for the designation of commercial, industrial, and institutional sources for stormwater permitting in U.S. EPA Regions 1, 3, and 9 (Los Angeles watersheds, as described below).

3) *Commercial, industrial, and institutional site runoff.* The impervious area associated with urban development can be a collection site for pollutants and generate greater quantities and various types of contaminants. The stormwater that washes over these impervious areas and into receiving waters could carry car emissions, litter, pesticides, industrial chemicals, and household hazardous waste. These additional pollutant loadings can result in immediate and long-term impacts on the health of the receiving water body and the organisms that inhabit it. The U.S. Geological Survey has indicated that with increased urban development, local water bodies exhibited increased concentrations of contaminants such as nitrogen, chloride, insecticides, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).[1]

   Runoff from commercial industrial, and institutional sites can consistently contain high levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. These can lead to major impacts including algal blooms and eutrophic conditions. Although some these sites can be covered under a local jurisdiction's MS4 permit, it is argued that the permits do not sufficiently control discharges from these sites and that direct regulation through permitting of these sites would better mitigate the impacts of the discharges.

4) *Federal action on pollution in two California watersheds.* In response to petitions (submitted to Region 9 of the U.S. EPA (Region 9) in 2015), a subsequent court case, and a 2018 District Court order, Region 9 is using its Residual Designation Authority to add requirements for certain stormwater sources that discharge into two watersheds in Los Angeles County: the Alamitos Bay/Los Cerritos Channel Watershed and the Dominguez Channel and Los Angeles/Long Beach Inner Harbor Watershed. The final designation is specifically designed to require privately-owned commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities to obtain NPDES permits for stormwater runoff. Region 9 states that both watersheds are impaired due to elevated levels of copper and zinc, and TMDLs have been established to define needed reductions of these pollutants, to restore water quality and beneficial uses of the watersheds.

[1] Masoner, J., et. al. (2019). Urban Stormwater: An Overlooked Pathway of Extensive Mixed Contaminants to Surface and Groundwaters in the United States.

According to Region 9, in a November 2024 memo explaining the Final Designation, "the record demonstrates that stormwater discharges from the [commercial, industrial, and institutional] sources…contribute to violations of water quality standards…The Final Designation will require permit coverage for discharges from approximately 600 facilities and will significantly reduce discharges of pollutants of concern, including metals." Once designated, these sites will be required to obtain coverage under an NPDES permit.

Region 9 is partnering with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Regional Water Board), which is in the process of developing a new NPDES general permit, to provide coverage for all commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in the two Los Angeles County watersheds designated by Region 9's action. The Los Angeles general permit defines a commercial, industrial, and institutional site as a privately owned parcel or contiguous parcels of land that are commercial, industrial or institutional based on Los Angeles County Tax Assessor land use codes 1000 through 2900, 3000 through 3920, 6000 through 6910, 7000 through 7710, and 8100 through 8400. The permit would apply to stormwater discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges from certain unpermitted commercial, industrial, and institutional sites with five or more acres of impervious surfaces.

Describing the rationale for a new permit, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board states on its website, "Storm Water—Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Permit" (last updated January 28, 2025), "The Los Angeles Regional Water Board and U.S. EPA are considering potential regulatory requirements for stormwater runoff from certain commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) facilities in the Dominguez Channel/Greater Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Watershed and the Los Cerritos Channel/Alamitos Bay Watershed to reduce pollutant levels in stormwater runoff that flows from these facilities. These waterbodies are currently polluted by numerous chemicals, including copper and zinc, which can harm aquatic life, ecosystems, and human health. Impervious surfaces such as streets, parking lots, rooftops, and sidewalks collect a variety of pollutants."

Inspired by the Los Angeles general permit, this bill would define "commercial, industrial, or institutional site" for the purposes of issuing permits for the discharge of stormwater from municipal separate sewer systems

based on tax assessor land use codes. Current law does not have a definition for "commercial, industrial, or institutional site."

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "AB 2322 establishes a single, statewide definition of Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) sites for municipal stormwater permits using existing county land use codes. Cities and counties currently operate under stormwater permits (MS4 permits) that require them to identify and inspect businesses and ensure stormwater controls are installed when sites are built or redeveloped. However, these existing permits rely on different MS4 permittees' interpretations of what is considered a regulated facility. As a result, identical businesses can face different inspection expectations and compliance requirements depending solely on where they operate. For example, a car wash may be included in one city's program but not in a neighboring jurisdiction. AB 2322 fixes this inconsistency by providing an objective, uniform standard that can be applied consistently across California. For businesses, that means clearer rules, more predictable planning, and a fair, level playing field statewide."

2) *Codifying a definition.* This bill codifies a definition for "commercial, industrial, and institutional site" (CII site) for the purposes of issuing stormwater discharge permits and based off county tax assessor land use codes. The definition itself and its codification raises various questions about its applicability and implementation. The following sections discuss these implications:

   - *Accounting for county codes.* The aim of this legislation was to create a state-wide definition that could provide consistency on how CII sites could be identified across the state. The definition implies that any parcel of land that is commercial, industrial, or institutional would be involved. Though intended to create consistency, not all counties consistently categorize land use codes.
   - The "CII Site" definition in the LA Regional Water Board general permit for CII facilities specifies individual land use codes. While some counties have individual codes tagged with each of these categories, other individual codes captured under the LA general permit definition would not be captured by this definition. Some counties have a broad range of codes nested within each of these categories, which may or may not be fully comprehensive. Other counties may categorize land use codes under other labels that would

exclude potentially polluting sites from the definition. This calls into question how this definition would be applied to different entities within future statute or regulation, and without the associated policies, it is difficult to predict how they will apply or whether these inconsistencies will be considered.

- *Case-by-case evaluations.* As in print, the CII sites definition would encompass any and all commercial, industrial, or institutional site based on land use, whereas designations for permitting made within the existing regulatory framework have and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the regulator and only with certain facilities. It is unclear whether this definition would strip the authorities of the State or Regional Water Boards to evaluate the necessity of a permit on a case-by-case basis if the definition gives prescriptive statutory direction.
- *The basis for land use.* Typically, the determination for the need of a stormwater permit is based on the permeability of the land surface, parcel size, and/or the extent of disturbance or nuisance. Without case-by-case considerations or designations, it is not clear how land use alone could effectively capture the entities that should be regulated for stormwater, without overextending or over regulating. Depending on how a county designates land use, the definition may be too broad if applied in a future policy context. There could also be miscellaneous categories for land use with facilities that could significantly contribute to stormwater contamination, but they would not be captured within CII.

Without the associated policy that describes how this definition would apply, it is unclear how this definition alone would serve the State or Regional Water Boards, or regulated entities. When a policy is created through future legislation and regulation that applies this definition, questions would then be raised on its implementation given how it is crafted. There are levels of uncertainty with this bill, that could certainly lead to subsequent bills to adjust the definition if potential complications were to arise in its application. Running future legislation changing the definition to fit into certain circumstances for some jurisdictions could then impact the way other jurisdictions have applied it. Pairing a definition with a framework could create more clarity and avoid potential unintended consequences.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1313 (Papan, 2025) would have required the State Water Board to establish, as provided, a statewide commercial, industrial, and institutional NPDES order to regulate stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges from facilities with

impervious surfaces that are significant contributors of pollutants to federally-protected surface waters. This bill did not meet the house of origin deadline and died on the inactive file.

AB 2106 (Rivas, 2022) would have required the State Water Board to establish a statewide commercial, industrial, and institutional NPDES order regulating stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges from facilities with impervious surfaces that are significant contributors of pollutants to federally protected surface waters. This bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/4/2026)

California Coastkeeper Alliance (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/4/2026)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-17, 5/18/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Arambula, Bains, Calderon, Dixon, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Stefani, Ta

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8/5/26 15:04:39

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2326
Author: Committee on Agriculture
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, Ashby, McNerney, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Noxious weed management: Broomrape Program: extension

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill extends the operation of the Broomrape Program within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) until July 1, 2030 and make specified changes to the Program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Designates CDFA as the lead department in noxious weed management.

2) Requires CDFA, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, to implement provisions relating to noxious weed management.

3) Creates the Noxious Weed Management Account and requires moneys appropriated from the account for expenditure by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to be allocated, by percentage, for specified purposes, including, among others, 60% to eligible weed management areas or county agricultural commissioners for the control and abatement of noxious and invasive weeds, and 20% to qualified applicants, as defined, for research on the biology,

ecology, or management of noxious and invasive weeds, the mapping, risk assessment, and prioritization of weeds, the prevention of weed introduction and spread, and education and outreach activities, as specified.

4) Requires a weed management area, as defined, to be formed in a county or other geographic area as a condition of eligibility for funds from the Noxious Weed Management Account. Existing law requires each weed management area or county agricultural commissioner to submit an integrated weed management plan to the department for review, approval, and funding. Existing law prohibits more than 10% of the noxious weed management funds distributed to a weed management area from being used for meeting, travel, administration, and coordination costs.

This bill:

1) Makes 60% of the moneys in the Noxious Weed Management Account allocated for the control and abatement of noxious and invasive weeds only available to eligible weed management areas, as provided.

2) Revises the requirements for an integrated weed management plan submitted by a weed management area to include specific goals and purposes, as provided.

3) Revises the definition of "qualified applicant" for purposes of the 20% of the moneys in the account allocated for research and other purposes.

4) Specifies that a given geographic area may only be part of a single weed management area and would prohibit more than 25%, rather than 10%, of the noxious weed management funds distributed to a weed management area from being used for meeting, travel, administration, and coordination costs.

5) Defines "person" for purposes of this program as a producer, handler, or any other entity that holds title to a commodity subject to assessment pursuant to these provisions.

   a) Defines "commodity" for these purposes as tomatoes intended for processing and any other commodity impacted by broomrape, as specified by the secretary.

6) Extends the operation of the Broomrape Program until July 1, 2030.

7) Specifies that personal identifying information is protected under the program but still available for enforcement purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

> "The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) would incur ongoing annual costs to CDFA in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to continue operating the Broomrape Program until July 1, 2030 (Broomrape Management Account)."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

> "This bill extends the Broomrape control program, a industry funded program to eradicate a noxious weed that can have a devastating impact on tomatoes in California. The bill will also update aspects of the noxious weed management."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
8/17/26 10:03:12

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2329
Author: Fong (D), et al.
Amended: 8/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 27- Urgency

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Surplus residential property: condition-adjusted price of the fair market value: Cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to the Roberti Act to facilitate the sale of properties owned by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) along a specific portion of the State Route 710 (SR 710) corridor, as specified.

Senate floor amendments of 8/25/26 make various changes to the selling of SR 710 properties.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Allows Caltrans to acquire any real property that it considers necessary for state highway purposes. Whenever it determines that any real property acquired by the state for highway purposes is no longer necessary, Caltrans is allowed to

sell or exchange it in the manner and upon terms, standards, and conditions established by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

2) Otherwise known as the Roberti Act, provides specific direction for the disposal of excess properties in the unconstructed portion of SR 710 corridor where excess properties in this corridor are to be sold in a certain priority order, as provided.

3) Further establishes special provisions for the disposal of surplus property along the SR 710 corridor in the Cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena including allowing the cities to purchase the property at Caltrans' acquisition cost and requiring 3 affordable housing units be produced for every housing unit acquired by the cities.

4) Prohibits Caltrans from selling a nonresidential property to a tenant as described above at a value below the minimum sales price, as defined.

5) Requires Caltrans to impose appropriate terms, conditions, and restrictions for nonresidential properties being sold on the SR 710 corridor if the offered price is less than fair market value.

This bill:

1) Adds a definition of "condition-adjusted price of the fair market value" to mean the fair market value of the property as of October 13, 2019, as determined by an independent appraiser, and as adjusted as provided in this subdivision.

2) Requires an appraiser when establishing the condition-adjusted price of the fair market value of a property to reflect both of the following:

   a) The existing "as is" condition of the property, as specified; and,

   b) The standardized depreciation to major structural components or building systems shown to have materially deteriorated since October 13, 2019, according to a standardized depreciation schedule or based on an inspection of the property for material deterioration occurring after October 13, 2019, as provided.

3) Provides that for a low or moderate – income occupant, as defined, that elects to purchase a single-family residence at fair market value or is offered a single-family residence at fair market value, Caltrans is required to set the selling price

at fair market value or the condition-adjusted price of the fair market value, whichever is less.

4) Further provides that Caltrans is exempt from providing repairs to single-family residences if the property is sold at the condition-adjusted price of the fair market value.

5) Offers a present occupant or present tenant purchasing a single-family residence at an affordable price or condition-adjusted price of the fair market value to receive purchase assistance, as specified, if the purchaser is unable to obtain primary financing sufficient to complete the purchase, as provided. Further requires that the amounts repaid by a qualified purchaser pursuant to terms established in the deferred payment assistance loan to be deposited into the Affordable Housing Trust Account, as specified.

6) Requires Caltrans to provide to all persons or entities offered surplus residential property and to purchasers of surplus residential property upon their request, all documents related to the surplus residential property included, but not be limited to, valuation and appraisal materials, property condition, repair, and inspection reports, tenant leases, complete rental history, rent ledgers, including late notices, solicitations sent to prospective purchasers, title reports, and any environmental reports, including reports on lead, asbestos, or geotechnical issues. Further requires Caltrans to review the requested documentation to ensure that an individual's private information and other privileged communications have been redacted. Prohibits Caltrans from requiring the execution of a nondisclosure agreement relating to these documents.

7) Requires Caltrans to provide to a purchaser or potential purchaser of surplus residential property all appraisals, calculations, and documents related to the purchase price, including any adjustments or credits, purchase and sale agreement, escrow instructions, and a written explanation of how rent obligations or other balances, if owed, will be handled before the close of escrow. Further requires Caltrans to review the requested documentation to ensure that an individual's private information and other privileged communications have been redacted. Prohibits Caltrans from requiring the execution of a nondisclosure agreement relating to these documents.

8) Requires any surplus residential property purchased at the condition-adjusted price of the fair market value price pursuant to be assessed at its condition-adjusted price of the fair market value price for property tax purposes.

9) For the Cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena, requires both cities to offer present tenants with good standing residential properties at the condition-adjusted price of the fair market value, as defined. Further makes a number of changes to requirements pertaining to the construction / completion of affordable housing units funded by SR 710 surplus property proceeds, as specified.

10) Includes an urgency clause.

Comments

1) *History of SR 710:* In the 1950's, Caltrans planned for a freeway to connect the Port of Long Beach north to Interstate 5, Interstate 10 and the Interstate 210 freeway in Pasadena. In 1964, the southern part of SR 710 was built, starting at the Port of Long Beach and heading north. It ended 23 miles later, five miles short of the intended connection to Interstate 210, feeding into local traffic on Valley Boulevard in Alhambra, causing congestion on the neighboring freeways and streets. The gap, which was caused by challenges from the community, affects the surrounding cities of El Sereno, Alhambra, South Pasadena, Pasadena, and a portion of Los Angeles.
In 2018, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and Caltrans identified alternatives to the freeway gap closure which did not require demolition of any homes. Subsequent legislation prohibits Caltrans from pursuing freeway gap closure. Consequently, many of these properties are no longer needed for the transportation project and are now surplus. Caltrans has begun disposing of properties pursuant to several laws enacted over the last few years.

2) *Challenges associated with selling SR 710 properties*. Since the official termination of the SR 710 extension project in 2019, the process to sell these properties to both previous and current tenants has been riddled with challenges. Several of these challenges include regulatory and emergency rulemaking delays, tenant disputes, deferred maintenance and safety issues, and the complex phased / staggered sales process itself. In response, a variety of legislative proposals have been both introduced and enacted in attempt to resolve some of the abovementioned challenges.

3) *Expediting the process.* However, local stakeholders, public agencies, and tenants continue to assert that challenges remain, and thus the need for

subsequent legislation. The proposed provisions specified in this bill intend to expedite / improve efficiencies in Caltrans' process of selling SR 710 properties while providing the Cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena with additional flexibility to sell SR 710 related residential properties and use the proceeds for various housing-related purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Caltrans would likely incur administrative workload costs in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for up to three years to make determinations of sales prices based on a condition-adjusted fair market value. Caltrans would incur unknown, potentially significant additional costs to pay for appraisals and inspections to determine condition-adjusted fair market value that accounts for costs of repairs and capital improvements. (State Highway Account)

- Unknown revenue losses, potentially in the low tens of millions of dollars in the aggregate, as a result of lower sales prices associated with valuing properties at the condition-adjusted fair market value rather than fair market value, as well as diversion of funds to affordable housing trust funds in Pasadena and South Pasadena. These impacts would result in a reduction of funds available to rehabilitate SR 710 surplus residential properties under the Affordable Sales Program and to fund local transportation projects, as specified in the Roberti Act. Actual revenue losses would depend upon the number of properties sold at the lower condition-adjusted value, and the differences between the sales prices and traditional fair market value, which would vary from property to property. (SR 710 Rehabilitation Account, State Highway Account)

- Unknown loss of property taxes, potentially in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars in the aggregate, related to the bill's requirement that a home sold pursuant to the Roberti Act must be assessed based on the condition-adjusted fair market value, rather than traditional fair market value. Staff notes that property tax revenues are allocated to local agencies, including cities, counties, school entities, and special districts. Any reduction in the amounts that are allocated to schools may result in a commensurate State General Fund impact to backfill school funding reductions, pursuant to Proposition 98 education funding formulas.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

City of Pasadena (as amended)

City of South Pasadena

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/26/26 9:17:04

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2337
Author: Lackey (R)
Amended: 8/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Peace officers: theft

SOURCE: Los Angeles District Attorney's Office

DIGEST: Adds the crime of theft committed by a peace officer under color of authority to the definition of "serious misconduct" for the purposes of ineligibility for, or revocation of, peace officer certification by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/25/26 resolve chaptering conflicts.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes POST to set minimum standards for the recruitment and training of peace officers, develop training courses and curriculum, and establish a professional certificate program that awards different levels of certification based on training, education, experience, and other relevant prerequisites. (Penal [Pen.] Code, §§ 830-832.10; 13500 et seq.)

2) Requires every peace officer in California to satisfactorily complete an introductory training course prescribed by POST, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 832, subd. (a).)

3) Requires a law enforcement agency to conduct a background check on a peace officer or prospective officer, as provided. (Gov. Code, § 1030.)

4) Provides that each class of public officers or employees declared by law to be peace officers shall meet specified minimum standards. (Gov. Code, § 1031.)

5) Provides that each of the following persons is disqualified from being a peace officer in California:

   a) Any person who has been convicted of a felony.

   b) Any person who has been convicted of any offense in any other jurisdiction which would have been a felony if committed in this state.

   c) Any person who has been discharged from the military for committing an offense, as adjudicated by a military tribunal, which would have been a felony if committed in this state.

   d) Any person who has been convicted of a crime based upon a verdict or finding of guilt of a felony by the trier of fact, or upon the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony.

   e) Any person who has been charged with a felony and adjudged by a superior court to be mentally incompetent

   f) Any person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony.

   g) Any person who has been determined to be a mentally disordered sex offender.

   h) Any person adjudged addicted or in danger of becoming addicted to narcotics, convicted, and committed to a state institution.

   i) Any person convicted or adjudicated to have committed a crime involving moral turpitude, as specified.

   j) Any person that has been issued a peace officer certificate by POST and had that certification revoked or an application for certification denied.

k) Any person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or United States territory or by the federal government, whose name is listed in the National Decertification Index of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training or any other database designated by the federal government whose certification as a law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction was revoked for misconduct, or who, while employed as a law enforcement officer, engaged in serious misconduct that would have resulted in their certification being revoked by the commission if employed as a peace officer in this state. (Gov. Code, § 1029.)

6) Requires POST to establish a certification program for peace officers, as defined, and provides that basic, intermediate, advanced, supervisory, management, and executive certificates shall be established for the purpose of fostering professionalization, education, and experience necessary to adequately accomplish the general police service duties performed by peace officers. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subds. (a)-(b).)

7) Provides that certificates shall be awarded on the basis of a combination of training, education, experience, and other prerequisites, as determined by POST, and specifies what POST shall recognize as acceptable college education in determining whether an applicant for certification has the requisite education. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subd. (c).)

8) Provides that persons who are determined by POST to be eligible peace officers may make application for the certificates, provided they are employed by an agency which participates in the post program. Any agency appointing an individual who does not already have a basic certificate as described in subdivision (a) and who is not eligible for a certificate shall make application for proof of eligibility within 10 days of appointment. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subd. (d).)

9) Grants POST the authority to suspend, revoke, or cancel any certification, which extends to any certificate or proof of eligibility issued by the commission, including any certificate or proof of eligibility that is invalid, inactive, expired or canceled. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subd. (f).)

10) Provides that an agency that employs peace officers shall employ as a peace officer only individuals with current, valid certification, except that an agency may provisionally employ a person for up to 24 months, pending certification by POST, provided that the person has received a proof of eligibility and has

not previously been certified or denied certification, or had their certification revoked. (Pen. Code § 13510.1, subd. (g)(1).)

11) Authorizes POST to suspend or revoke the certification of a peace officer if the person has been terminated for cause from employment as a peace officer for, or has, while employed as a peace officer, otherwise engaged in, any serious misconduct, as described. (Pen. Code, § 13510.8, subd. (a)(2).)

12) Authorizes POST to cancel the certificate or proof of eligibility of a peace officer if it determines that there was fraud or misrepresentation made by an applicant at any time during the application process that resulted in the issuance of the certification. (Pen. Code, § 13510.8, subd. (a)(2).)

13) States that every person who feloniously steals, takes, carries, leads, or drives away the personal property of another, or who fraudulently appropriates property which has been entrusted to them, or who knowingly and designedly, by any false or fraudulent representation or pretense, defrauds any other person of money, labor or real or personal property, is guilty of theft. Divides theft into two degrees: petty theft and grand theft. (Pen. Code §§ 484, subd. (a), 486.)

14) Requires POST to adopt by regulation a definition of "serious misconduct" that shall serve as the criteria for consideration for ineligibility for, or revocation of, certification of a peace officer. The definition shall include all of the following:

    a) Dishonesty relating to the reporting, investigation, or prosecution of a crime, or relating to the reporting of, or investigation of misconduct by, a peace officer or custodial officer, including, but not limited to, false statements, intentionally filing false reports, tampering with, falsifying, destroying, or concealing evidence, perjury, and tampering with data recorded by a body-worn camera or other recording device for purposes of concealing misconduct.

    b) Abuse of power, including, but not limited to, intimidating witnesses, knowingly obtaining a false confession, and knowingly making a false arrest.

    c) Physical abuse, including, but not limited to, the excessive or unreasonable use of force.

    d) Sexual assault.

    e) Demonstrating bias on the basis of race, national origin, religion, gender identity or expression, housing status, sexual orientation, mental or physical

disability, or other protected status in violation of law or department policy or inconsistent with a peace officer's obligation to carry out their duties in a fair and unbiased manner. This paragraph does not limit an employee's rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

f) Acts that violate the law and are sufficiently egregious or repeated as to be inconsistent with a peace officer's obligation to uphold the law or respect the rights of members of the public, as determined by POST.

g) Participation in a law enforcement gang.

h) Failure to cooperate with an investigation into potential police misconduct.

i) Failure to intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond what is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, taking into account the possibility that other officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by a subject. (Pen. Code, § 13510.8, subd. (b).)

This bill adds petty theft committed by a peace officer to the definition of "serious misconduct" for the purposes of peace officer decertification.

Comments

Becoming a peace officer in California is a relatively rigorous process, requiring candidates to meet a range of minimum standards. Under existing law, prospective peace officers must be legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law, be 18 years of age or older, pass a background check, and be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation. Additionally, prospective peace officers must found to be free from any physical, emotional, or mental condition, including bias against race or ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, that might adversely affect the exercise of the powers of a peace officer, as evaluated by a licensed physician for the physical fitness aspect and a specified psychiatric specialist or psychologist for the mental and emotional aspects. Regarding educational requirements, while existing law requires peace officer candidates to have at least a high school diploma, recent legislation (AB 992, Irwin, Chapter 175, Statutes of 2025) requires most classes of peace officers, commencing January 1, 2031, to obtain either an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, a newly-created "modern policing degree," or a "professional policing certificate" within 36 months of receiving their basic certificate from POST.

A newer feature of California's process for vetting prospective and current peace officers is POST's mandatory certification process, created by SB 2 (Bradford, Ch. 409, Stats. of 2021.) Under SB 2, POST administers an extensive certification program for peace officers, who must receive a proof of eligibility and a basic certificate in order to serve in that capacity. Additionally, SB 2 provides a mechanism by which POST may investigate and review allegations of "serious misconduct" against an officer, where "serious misconduct" is defined to include a host of behaviors unbecoming a peace officer, such as dishonesty, abuse of power, criminal behaviors, demonstration of bias, participation in a law enforcement gang, and others. After a lengthy review and investigation process, POST has the discretion to issue a certificate to a prospective officer, or to suspend or revoke an existing officer's certification, including if an officer has been terminated for or has otherwise engaged in "serious misconduct," as defined above. Additionally, law enforcement agencies are required to report a range of personnel actions to POST for their review, including the hiring of any officer.

A separate provision of existing law disqualifies any person from becoming a California peace officer who 1) has received a POST certification and either surrendered the certification or had it revoked, 2) has met the minimum requirements for the issuance of a certification but nonetheless was denied certification by POST, and 3) any person previously employed in law enforcement in any state or by the federal government, whose name is listed in the National Decertification Index or any other database designated by the federal government whose certification as a law enforcement officer in that jurisdiction was revoked for misconduct, or who, while employed as a law enforcement officer, engaged in serious misconduct that would have resulted in decertification by POST if employed as a peace officer in this state.

The author asserts that "theft under color of authority, while rare, is a significant betrayal of the public trust and causes a loss of trust in the criminal justice system." Accordingly, this bill adds the commission of petty theft by a peace officer under color of authority to the definition of "serious misconduct" that authorizes POST to suspend or revoke a peace officer's certification.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> Ongoing costs of approximately $500,000 annually to POST for additional law enforcement consultant positions to investigate decertification cases under the new tenth definition of serious misconduct, based on an estimated 100 to 150 cases per year. The Peace

Officer Training Fund (POTF) has a structural deficit, and POST's operations are increasingly supported by General Fund appropriations. (POTF, General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/26)

Los Angeles County District Attorneys Office (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/26/26 9:16:02

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2344
Author: Haney (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Animal abuse: forfeiture

SOURCE: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Social Compassion in Legislation

DIGEST: This bill 1) authorizes, in a criminal case alleging a violation of specified animal abuse crimes, specified entities to request that the prosecuting attorney file a petition requesting that, before final disposition, the court issue an order forfeiting the animal to the city, county, or seizing agency 30 days after a defendant fails to appear in court, as specified; 2) authorizes those entities to request, and the court to issue, a forfeiture petition within 3 days after a defendant fails to appear in court a 2nd or subsequent time; and 3) authorizes, if the defendant is granted diversion for those crimes, the prosecution to request an order from the court that the defendant be prohibited from owning, possessing, caring for, or residing with animals of any kind throughout the period of diversion, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 strike the postseizure forfeiture petition process, outlined above, that included provisions for a defendant who failed to appear, and reposition the bill's forfeiture petition process into existing code by

expanding an existing forfeiture petition process, that applied only to some seized animals, to include any animal properly seized under any provision of California law.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) States that every owner, driver, or keeper of any animal who permits the animal to be in any building, enclosure, lane, street, square, or lot of any city, county, city and county, or judicial district without proper care and attention is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 597.1, subd. (a).)

2) States that a peace officer, humane society officer, or animal control officer may take possession of a stray or abandoned animal, as specified, and that the full cost of caring for and treating any animal properly seized because it is injured, abandoned, stray, or seized under a search warrant, shall constitute a lien on the animal, and the animal shall not be returned to its owner until the charges are paid, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 597.1, subds. (a)-(d).)

3) States that an authorized officer, as specified above, who seizes or impounds an animal under Penal Code section 597.1, based on a reasonable belief that prompt action is required to protect the health or safety of the animal or the health or safety of others, the officer shall, before the commencement of any criminal proceedings, provide the owner or keeper of the animal, if known or ascertainable after reasonable investigation, with the opportunity for a postseizure hearing to determine the validity of the seizure or impoundment, or both. (Pen. Code, § 597.1, subd. (f).)

4) Establishes procedures for postseizure hearings when an officer seizes or impounds an animal based on a reasonable belief that prompt action is required, as specified, under Penal Code section 597.1. (Pen. Code, § 597.1, subd. (f)(1)-(4).)

5) Requires that for any animal properly seized for misdemeanor neglect or pursuant to a search warrant, the owner or keeper shall be personally liable to the seizing agency for the cost of the seizure and care of the animal. (Pen. Code, § 597.1, subd. (h).)

6) Requires that if the charges for the seizure or impoundment and any other charges permitted under this section are not paid within 14 days of the seizure, or if the owner, within 14 days of notice of availability of the animal to be

returned, fails to pay charges permitted under this section and take possession of the animal, the animal shall be deemed to have been abandoned and may be humanely euthanized or otherwise properly disposed of by the seizing agency. (Pen. Code, § 597.1, subd. (h).)

7) Provides that any person who impounds, or causes to be impounded in any animal shelter, any domestic animal, shall supply it during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food and water, and in default thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, § 597e.)

8) States that the prosecuting agency in a criminal proceeding in which the defendant has been charged with the commission of any defined crimes may, in conjunction with the criminal proceeding, file a petition for forfeiture, as provided. (Pen. Code, § 598.1, subd. (a)(1).)

9) Establishes procedures for forfeiture proceedings, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 598.1, subd. (c).)

This bill expands the current postseizure hearing procedure, that currently applies only to animals seized because of misdemeanor neglect and animals seized pursuant to a search warrant, so that it will now apply to any animal properly seized under any provision of California law.

Background

A seized animal may wind up being held at a shelter from various paths. Animals may end up in a shelter if they are lost or considered vicious. Stray or lost animals are held for a certain amount of time, with public notice or with notice to the known owner. (Food & Ag. Code, § 31107.) If an animal is considered vicious, while an animal control officer or law enforcement officer petitions a superior court to have a hearing for the vicious animal, which cities and counties may establish as administrative proceedings, the animal may be held at the shelter. (Food & Ag. Code, § 31621.) An animal may be seized if it is stray or abandoned. (Pen. Code, § 597.1.) It may be seized pursuant to a search warrant. (*Ibid*.) It may be seized if an officer sees it in immediate danger. (Pen. Code, § 597.1, subd. (f).)

If the need for immediate seizure is not present, and before criminal proceedings have commenced, an agency must offer a pre-seizure hearing to the owner of the animal where the owner can present evidence as to why the animal should not be seized. If the owner does not participate, the hearing officer may order that the animal be seized for its own protection. Rarely are seized animals returned if the owner is unable to pay for release.

If an animal is in immediate danger, a responding officer is required by law to seize it and provide care and treatment for it until the matter is later resolved through the legal process. Seized animals are retained under the authority of the court. Some seized animals, including those seized pursuant to a search warrant, can be released following an established postseizure hearing. However, for animals not seized pursuant a search warrant or as otherwise specified, seized animals remain on a court hold until the criminal case is resolved.

Seized animals on a court hold could be fostered or sent to rescues. However, because seized animals are evidence and chain of custody laws regarding animals are unclear, shelters are reticent to place animals in foster homes where the animal could potentially escape, jeopardizing the criminal case. Therefore, these animals are often held for months or even years, waiting for the case to resolve.

Because current law requires that if the charges for the seizure or impoundment and any other charges permitted under this section are not paid within 14 days of the seizure, or if the owner, within 14 days of notice of availability of the animal to be returned, fails to pay charges permitted under this section and take possession of the animal, the animal shall be deemed to have been abandoned and may be humanely euthanized or otherwise properly disposed of by the seizing agency, current law does not require an individual's ability to pay be considered when forfeiting their ownership of their animal.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

Minor to moderate workload costs to district attorneys to file forfeiture petitions and serve process on defendants. Costs will depend on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

Minor to moderate cost pressures on the courts to adjudicate new cases. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated $70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Unknown, potentially significant cost savings to the courts as a result of a more efficient animal disposition process and likely significant savings to animal control agencies from reduced sheltering costs. Whether animal control agency savings may partially or fully offset district attorney mandate claims would be determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/2026)

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (co-source)
Social Compassion in Legislation (co-source)
Angel's Furry Friends Rescue
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animal Rescue Mission
Animal Rescuers for Change
Animal Wellness Action
Berkeley Animal Rights Center
Better Together Forever
Born Again Animal Rescue and Adoption
City of Los Angeles
City of Seal Beach
Compassionate Bay
Concerned Citizens Animal Rescue
Eartheart
Feline Lucky Adventures
Fix Our Shelters
Giantmecha Syndicate
Greater Los Angeles Animal Spay Neuter Collaborative
Hugs and Kisses Animal Fund
Jaimie Brianna's Legacy Fund
Latino Alliance for Animal Care Foundation
Lockwood Animal Rescue Center
Long Beach Spay and Neuter Foundation
Los Angeles Democrats for the Protection of Animals
Multiple Individuals
NY 4 Whales
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Pibbles N Kibbles Animal Rescue
Plant-Based Advocates

Project Minnie
Rabbit Savior
Real Good Rescue
Seeds 4 Change Now Animal Rescue
Seniors Citizens for Humane Education and Legislation
Students Against Animal Cruelty Club - Hueneme High School
The Canine Condition
The Pet Loss Support Group
The Spayce Project
Underdog Heroes, INC.
Women United for Animal Welfare

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/2026)

Initiate Justice

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Natalia DaSilva Telles / PUB. S. /
8/24/26 10:56:34

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2369
Author: Rogers (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 17-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Caballero, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Strickland, Wahab

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-1, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-8, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Electricity: energy storage: energy-only resources

SOURCE: Abundance Network
Sonoma Clean Power

DIGEST: This bill requires specified actions to increase the opportunities for the deployment of energy-only resources, including requiring California's energy agencies provide transmission-focused information to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to identify cost-effective opportunities to increase the reliability contribution or mitigate congestion of planned or existing energy-only resources through transmission capacity expansions.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 address chaptering amendments with AB 2476 (Ellis) and AB 2111 (Papan).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes that U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has exclusive jurisdiction over the transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce. (Federal Power Act §§§201, 205, 206 (16 United States Code (USC) §§824, 824d, 824e))

2) Establishes the CAISO as a nonprofit public benefit corporation, and requires the CAISO to ensure the efficient use and reliable operation of the electrical transmission grid consistent with the achievement of planning and operating reserve criteria, as specified. (Public Utilities Code §345.5)

3) Establishes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with jurisdiction over all public utilities, including electrical and gas corporations.. (Article XII of the California Constitution)

4) Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices and to use these assessments and forecasts to develop and evaluate energy policies and programs. (Public Resources Code §25301(a))

5) Requires the CPUC, as part of the Public Utilities Act, to identify a diverse and balanced portfolio of resources needed to ensure a reliable electricity supply that provides optimal integration of renewable energy in a cost-effective manner. Requires the CPUC to adopt a process for each load-serving entity (LSE) to file an integrated resource plan (IRP) and a schedule for periodic updates. Requires the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC and CAISO, to determine if there is a need for the procurement of eligible energy resources based on a review of the integrated resource plans. Requires the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC, to identify all potentially achievable cost-effective electricity efficiency savings and establish efficiency targets for an electrical corporation, as specified. (Public Utilities Code §§454.51, 454.52, and 454.55)

6) Requires the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC, to provide transmission-focused guidance to the CAISO about resource portfolios of expected future renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources, as specified, to allow the CAISO to identify and approve transmission facilities needed to interconnect resources and reliably serve the needs of load centers. Requires the CPUC and the CEC to annually provide projections to support the CAISO's

planning and approvals in its annual transmission planning process, as provided. (Public Utilities Code §454.57)

This bill:

1) Requires the CPUC, when requiring procurement of resources under an IRP, to account for the ability of energy-only resources to achieve required clean energy deployment rates to charge storage resources during off-peak periods, and to increase resource diversity, and requires the CPUC to enable energy-only resources to satisfy procurement requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

2) Requires the CPUC and CEC, as part of providing projections to the CAISO, to also identify cost-effective opportunities to enable planned or operating energy-only resources to obtain deliverability through transmission capacity expansions, and to request the CAISO to reserve associated deliverability for geothermal and wind.

3) Requires the CPUC to designate energy-only resources as long-lead time resources for purposes of the CAISO's scoring in its interconnection process.

4) Incorporates additional changes to Section 454.52 of the Public Utilities Code proposed by AB 2476 to be operative only if this bill and AB 2476 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

5) Incorporates additional changes to Section 454.57 of the Public Utilities Code proposed by AB 2111 to be operative only if this bill and AB 2111 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Background

CAISO. The CAISO is a nonprofit public benefit corporation created by California statute as part of the effort to deregulate the electricity market in the late 1990s. The CAISO manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage bulk power system that makes up 80% of California's, and a small part of Nevada's, electric grid. CAISO is registered as both a transmission operator and balancing authority (BA) under federal reliability requirements. As a general matter, BAs may contain transmission operators. As with other BAs, the CAISO is regulated by federal statute and regulations with oversight by FERC and the North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC).

Transmission planning process. Each year, the CAISO conducts its transmission planning process to identify potential system limitations as well as opportunities for system reinforcements that improve reliability and efficiency. The CAISO Transmission Plan provides a comprehensive evaluation of the CAISO transmission grid to address grid reliability requirements, identify upgrades needed to successfully meet California's policy goals, and explore projects that can bring economic benefits to consumers. The plan relies heavily on key inputs from state agencies in translating legislative policy into actionable policy driven inputs. The development of the transmission plan entails annual public stakeholder process that is conducted pursuant to the CAISO's FERC-approved tariff. It includes a three-phase process that leads to annual CAISO Board of Governor approval of transmission plan and associated transmission projects.

Forecasting by CEC. The CEC conducts demand forecast that is used to inform several planning processes, including the CAISO's transmission planning process and the CPUC's IRP process. The demand forecast is often a 10-year (recently 15-year) outlook for electricity and natural gas sales, consumption, and peak and hourly electricity demand. Additionally, the CPUC provides energy resource supply-side inputs, including an annual resource portfolio, to inform the transmission planning by the CAISO.

SB 100 (De León, Chapter 312, 2018). SB 100 established the state's target to meet 100% of the state's electricity retail load with renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045. SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2022) established interim goals to meeting the SB 100 target, specifically requiring 90% of retail sales by 2035, 95% by 2040 to be met with renewable and zero-carbon energy resources. SB 100 Joint Agency Report evaluates the challenges and opportunities in implementing SB 100. It includes an initial assessment of the additional energy resources and the resource building rates needed to achieve 100% clean electricity, along with the associated costs. The report is scheduled to be updated every four years. The first report issued March 2021 identified preliminarily that on average the state may need six gigawatts of new renewable and energy storage annually to meet the SB 100 goals. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is developing the 2025 report.

IRP process. SB 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) required each LSE to file a biennial IRP for approval or certification by the CPUC. The CPUC combines all LSEs' IRPs to ensure the state is on its path to meet its clean energy procurement goals. Public owned utilities (POUs) are required to file their own IRPs with the CEC. The goal of the IRP is a two-year planning process to ensure

that LSEs are meeting targets that allow the electricity sector to contribute to California's economy-wide GHG emissions reductions goals and that helps to reduce overall costs. The CPUC adopted a 2023 portfolio that reduces 25 million metric ton (MMT) of GHG emissions by 2035, as compared to the previously adopted 38 MMT by 2030 planning target. The IRP is intended to forecast needs on a 10-year horizon. In this regard, the IRP is a forward-looking activity. As part of the IRP process, the CPUC has issued several procurement orders on LSEs to address near-term and mid-term procurement needs. Within the procurement orders, the CPUC has directed central procurement for local RA and mid-term reliability by electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs) for customers, including those of other LSEs.

CAISO 20-year Transmission Outlook. The CAISO embarked on creating a 20-Year Transmission Outlook for the electric grid, in collaboration with the CPUC and the CEC, with the goal of exploring the longer-term grid requirements and options for meeting California's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and renewable energy objectives reliably and cost-effectively. The CAISO also intends for the expanded planning horizon to provide valuable input for resource planning processes conducted by the CPUC and CEC, and to provide a longer-term context and framing of pertinent issues in the CAISO's ongoing annual 10-Year Transmission Plan.

SB 887 (Becker, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2022). SB 887 required the CPUC and CEC to provide forecasts and inputs to the CAISO that extend at least 15 years into the future to inform transmission planning process. Specifically, SB 887 required the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC and CARB, to provide transmission-focused guidance to the CAISO about resource portfolios of expected future renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources. Required the guidance to include allocation of resources by region, make full use of studies completed before January 1, 2023, and additional projections each year to support the CAISO's planning and approvals in its annual transmission planning process. The legislation also required the CPUC and CEC to provide 15-year resource portfolios and demand forecasts, provide load growth projections that achieve economy-wide GHG reductions, eliminate the need for carbon-emitting resources for reliability in locally constrained regions by no later than 2035, among other provisions.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author:

> Today, most of California is functionally off-limits to new renewable energy development due to a lack of interconnection availability caused by transmission constraints. This is especially acute in Northern California, where there is great potential for expansion of wind and geothermal resources. Over 21 gigawatts of projects currently in the queue are functionally unable to be interconnected to the grid, and that's just in 2026. The state risks losing hundreds of GWs of projects over the next two decades if this challenge is not addressed, along with the associated ratepayer benefits, jobs, and reinvestment in our communities. A new approach to grid management can help resolve this problem by allowing vastly more clean energy resources to interconnect to the grid through a smarter approach to grid management. Simply put, California will not reach our ambitious clean energy goals without a better approach to interconnecting new projects to the grid.

Energy-only resources. Energy-only resources are those that generating resources that are interconnected to the electric grid but are not studied for deliverability. The CAISO has begun exploring pathways through its Interconnection Process Enhancements to allow certain energy-only resources to seek deliverability after coming online, where sufficient transmission capacity exists and no network upgrades are required. Under this concept, some projects may come online earlier as energy-only and later obtain deliverability if conditions permit. The proponents of this bill are supportive of expanding the use of these energy-only resources, particularly geothermal and wind resources that lack deliverability due to limited transmission capacity.

This bill requires the CPUC to account for energy-only resources to meet needs of procurement orders. The bill would require the CPUC to account for the role energy-only resources can provide to achieve clean energy deployment rates, including the ability to charge storage resources during off-peak periods and increase resource diversity. CPUC's recent procurement orders have increased deployment of solar and battery storage (record amounts). The CPUC has also made a request to the Department of Water Resources for long lead-time resources, including offshore wind and enhanced geothermal. However, DWR has not procured or signaled their intent to procure the resources requested. This bill seeks to have the CPUC better account for the role energy-only resources can provide to increase resource diversity. It's unclear whether this addition will result in a different outcome in CPUC procurement orders, but the proponents intend for this language to support their efforts in CPUC proceedings to increase the deployment of geothermal and wind energy resources that lack deliverability.

This bill amends the SB 887 transmission-focused guidance to enable opportunities to connect energy-only resources and request wind, and geothermal resources are considered long lead-time resources. Recent amendments require the CPUC and CEC to identify cost-effective opportunities to enable planned or operating energy-only resources to obtain deliverability through transmission capacity expansions and require the CAISO to reserve associated deliverability for geothermal and wind in the BA for that purpose. The bill also requires the CPUC and CEC to request CAISO to designate the energy-only resources as long lead-time resources for purposes of the CAISO's scoring in its interconnection process (the process to connect generating resources to the electric transmission system). Although in-state wind had been identified as a long lead-time resource, the CPUC and CAISO changed this definition to no longer include in-state wind (though out of state wind, geothermal and offshore wind are considered long lead-time resources) contending that in-state wind does not face the same time horizon challenges of the other resources for which they reserve transmission capacity. The change has raised concerns by stakeholders representing in-state wind energy resources that the loss of the designation will further limit the ability for wind to be developed in California. The proponents for this bill contend this approach will help ensure California is taking better advantage of connecting clean energy resources more quickly to help achieve our clean energy goals.

Prior/Related Legislation

AB 2111 (Papan, 2026) requires various actions to better incorporate uncertainty and risk in resource portfolio planning to inform transmission planning. The bill is pending before the full Senate.

SB 887 (Becker, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2022) among its provisions, required the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC and the CARB, to provide transmission-focused guidance to the CAISO about resource portfolios of expected future renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources to allow the CAISO to identify and approve transmission facilities needed to allow for full deliverability of those resources to load centers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The CPUC estimates ongoing costs of about $185,000 annually (ratepayer funds) to support the annual transmission-focused guidance provided to the CAISO under Public Utilities Code §454.57 by identifying cost-effective

opportunities to increase the reliability contribution of, and mitigate transmission congestion affecting, planned and existing energy-only resources, analyze CAISO deliverability studies and transmission capacity data to determine where targeted transmission expansions would most improve reliability value or reduce curtailment risk, and translate those findings into the annual guidance package the CPUC and California Energy Commission (CEC) jointly submit to the CAISO's transmission planning process — among other things.

- The CEC anticipates its costs would be minor and absorbable.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Abundance Network (Co-source)
Sonoma Clean Power (Co-source)
California Community Choice Association
County of Humboldt
San José Clean Energy
The Nature Conservancy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Independent Energy Producers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the co-sponsors of the bill: "Today, most of California is functionally off-limits to new clean energy development due to a lack of interconnection availability caused by transmission constraints. Our state risks losing hundreds of gigawatts' worth of diverse clean energy projects over the next two decades – along with the associated ratepayer benefits, jobs, and reinvestment in our communities – if this challenge is not addressed. … AB 2369 can help resolve this problem by allowing clean energy resources to interconnect to the existing grid more quickly and on a much greater scale."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to the Independent Energy Producers Association, this bill creates reliability risks, increased ratepayer costs, and bypasses active studies. They note that the CAISO is already studying the reliability contribution of energy-only resources and results are expected in November to inform the CPUC's development of new Reliable Clean Power Procurement Program. They contend this bill will lock in energy-only resource treatment before that technical work is completed.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-8, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, DeMaio, Ellis, Gallagher, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dixon, Flora, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wallis

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/24/26 13:40:20

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2375
Author: Blanca Rubio (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 8/10/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Alcoholic beverage control

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill revises and recasts provisions in the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Act that currently require electronic fund transfers (EFT) for retailer to wholesaler alcohol payments. This bill changes the requirement from delivery to sale, defines "initiate" and "equitable manner," and expands processor options, as specified. Additionally, this bill revises the definition of "beer" for purposes of the ABC Act to provide that beer may be produced using other grains.

Senate floor amendments of 8/20/26 clarify that the requirement that the retailer pay the supplier a one percent charge after the 30th day from the day of the delivery shall made on the 32nd day rather than the 31st day from the date of the delivery.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Department of ABC and grants it exclusive authority to administer the provisions of the ABC Act in accordance with laws enacted by the Legislature. This involves licensing individuals and businesses associated with the manufacture, importation, and sale of alcoholic beverages and the collection of license fees for this purpose.

2) Defines "beer" to mean any alcoholic beverage obtained by the fermentation of any infusion or decoction of barley, malt, hops, or any other similar product, or any combination thereof in water, and includes ale, porter, brown, stout, lager beer, small beer, and strong beer, but does not include sake, known as Japanese rice wine. Beer may be produced using the following materials as adjuncts in fermentation: honey, fruit, fruit juice, fruit concentrate, herbs, spices, and other food materials. Beer aged in an empty wooden barrel previously used to contain wine or distilled spirits shall be defined exclusively as "beer" and shall not be considered a dilution or mixture of any other alcoholic beverage. (California Business and Professions Code [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code] § 23006)

3) Requires specified licensees who sold and delivered alcoholic beverages to a retailer and did not receive payment within 42 days of the date of delivery to charge 1% of the unpaid balance on the 43rd day and an additional 1% for each subsequent 30-day period.

4) Requires a payment from a licensed retailer to a licensed wholesaler for the delivery of alcoholic beverages to be made by EFT pursuant to certain conditions, except as specified. Among other things, existing law requires the wholesaler to initiate the EFT and requires any service fees related to the EFT to be applied in an equitable manner. Existing law also provides for the selection of the third-party payment processor used to facilitate the EFT, as specified.

This bill:

1) Revises and recasts provisions in the ABC Act related requirements of payment from a licensed retailer to a licensed wholesaler for the *delivery* of alcoholic beverages, to instead apply to the *sale* of alcoholic beverages.

2) Requires specified licensees who sold and delivered alcoholic beverages to a retailer and did not receive payment to charge 1% of the unpaid balance after 30 days without payment and an additional 1% for each subsequent 30-day period. Under current law, the 1% charge begins after 42 days.

3) Defines "initiate," for specified provisions in the ABC Act related to the requirement that a wholesaler licensee initiate the EFT, to mean presenting an invoice to the licensed retailer requiring the licensed retailer to make payment by electronic means.

4) Provides, for specified provisions in the ABC Act related to the requirement that a wholesaler licensee initiate the EFT, that that provision does not prevent a licensed retailer from authorizing the licensed wholesaler to electronically withdraw funds directly form the licensed retailer's bank account, if the authorization is voluntary and can be withdrawn by the licensed retailer through a written notice provided to the licensed wholesaler at least 72 hours before a scheduled electronic withdrawal.

5) Defines "equitable manner," for specified provisions in the ABC Act related to the requirement that any service fees related to electronic payment transactions shall be applied in an equitable manner to each subscribing licensed wholesaler and licensed retailer, to mean that the fees paid are for those services the paying party receives from the electronic payment service provider.

6) Requires the licensed wholesaler and licensed retailer to either use the third-party payment processor used by the parties on July 1, 2025, or a payment processing service offered by a financial institution that held a deposit account of the licensed retailer on that date, and, if neither apply, would require the wholesaler to select the processor.

7) Revises the definition of "beer" for purposes of the ABC Act to provide that beer may be produced using other grain and to specify that fermentation occurs in drinkable water.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "this bill makes technical and noncontroversial changes to the Act to further facilitate implementation of AB 2991 (2024), which authorized electronic payments between retailers and wholesalers for alcoholic beverage deliveries made by an EFT in accordance with various requirements. AB 2375 conforms the statute's payment provisions to implementation guidance issued by the Department of ABC and clarifies that both 'push' (payer) and 'pull' (payee) electronic payment systems comply with statutory requirements. The amendments preserve the underlying objectives of the 2024 legislation and the tied-house credit laws by ensuring prompt payment and a level playing field, without permitting any unlawful extension of credit between the parties."

Furthermore, "traditionally, beer has been brewed using barley, malt, and hops. However, over thousands of years, brewers have experimented with a variety of adjunct ingredients to create unique and innovative beer styles that reflect both seasonal influences and regional traditions. This bill aims to update the ABC Act by expanding the definition of beer to acknowledge this historical diversity while aligning with Federal regulations on beer flavoring. Additionally, it ensures that fermentation occurs in drinkable water."

AB 2991 (Valencia, Chapter 426, Statutes of 2024). In 2024, Governor Newsom signed AB 2991 (Valencia, Chapter 426, Statutes of 2024) which requires payments from retailer licensees to wholesaler licensees for alcoholic beverage deliveries to be made by an EFT in accordance with various requirements. These requirements included:

1) The wholesaler must initiate the EFT through the withdrawal of funds from the retailer's bank account. Initiating an EFT withdrawal can include, but is not limited to, simply generating an invoice requesting payment.

2) The EFT must occur by the expiration of the 30th day from the date of delivery.

3) Any costs related to the electronic payment services must be paid by the party that incurred the costs. Wholesalers cannot pay for electronic payment fees incurred by a retailer, and a retailer cannot pay for electronic payment fees incurred by a wholesaler, and service fees must be applied in an equitable manner to the licensee to match the services they receive.

The bill designated the wholesaler license with the authority to select the third-party payment processor used to facilitate the EFT transfer. Notwithstanding, a wholesaler and retailer may agree on the third-party payment processor, but if the parties are unable to agree, they must use the third-party payment processor used

by the retailer as of July 1, 2025, to pay for wholesale alcohol purchase; and, if by July 1, 2025, the retailer does not use a third-party payment processor, the parties must use the third-party payment processor selected by the wholesaler.

The bill provided specified exceptions for cash, check, or money order, including, but not limited to, temporary service interruptions of third-party payment processors, accepting payment following an EFT of insufficient funds, and others.

In addition, the bill gave wholesalers the ability to accept credit card payments in lieu of an EFT, so long as the retailer bears the cost of the transaction. The bill gave wholesalers' discretion to accept credit card payment. In April 2025, the Department of ABC issued an advisory alerting alcohol licensees of the new law and encouraged wholesalers and retailers to work together to ensure compliance with this new law.

Change Made by this Bill. Since the enactment of AB 2991 (Valencia, Chapter 426, Statutes of 2024) the Department of ABC has received numerous complaints from retailers, largely stemming from confusion over specific provisions of that bill. This bill seeks to clarify and improve several of those provisions.

First, existing law requires EFT payment from a retailer to a wholesaler upon delivery of alcoholic beverages. This bill changes the triggering event from delivery to sale. Second, current law requires licensees who sell and deliver alcoholic beverages to a retailer and do not receive payment within 42 days of delivery to charge 1% of the unpaid balance on the 43rd day, plus an additional 1% for each subsequent 30-day period. This bill reduces that initial window to 30 days, with the same 1% monthly charge thereafter. The 42-day period originated in mid-20th century banking practice, when checks could be delayed in transit and a 12-day buffer was considered necessary. That rationale no longer applies in an era of electronic payments.

Additionally, AB 2991 requires the wholesaler to "initiate" an electronic funds transfer, but the term generated significant confusion regarding its precise meaning. This bill addresses that ambiguity by defining "initiate" to mean presenting an invoice to the licensed retailer requiring the licensed retailer to make payment by electronic means. Similarly, AB 2991 requires any service fees related to electronic payments to be applied equitably to wholesalers and retailers alike. This bill defines "equitable manner" to mean that the fees paid are for those services the paying party receives from the electronic payment service provider.

Finally, this bill clarifies that the requirement for wholesalers to initiate EFTs does not preclude a retailer from voluntarily authorizing a wholesaler to withdraw funds directly from the retailer's bank account under a mutual EFT agreement, provided the retailer may revoke that authorization by written notice to the wholesaler at least 72 hours before scheduled withdrawal.

Adding Flavors to Brewing. Beer flavor enhancement encompasses a wide range of techniques beyond the naturally occurring characteristics imparted by barley, malt, hops, yeast, and other grains. Brewers may deliberately introduce ingredients such as fruits, herbs, spices, and other flavorings — either before or after the boil — to lend a beer its distinctive character. Similarly, a diverse array of fermentable adjuncts beyond barley may be incorporated into the brewing process, as virtually any starch or sugar is capable of serving as a fermentable base.

Fermentable ingredients generally fall into two broad categories. The first encompasses sugars that are readily available for fermentation without additional processing, including refined sugars, syrups, honey, and fruits. The second comprises sugars that are bound within starches or complex carbohydrates — such as grains, roots, and vegetables — and require processing to release the simpler sugars necessary for yeast activity.

In the latter case, yeast relies on enzymatic activity to break down maltose present in the wort — the liquid extracted during mashing — into fermentable simple sugars. Fructose, though the most abundant naturally occurring fermentable sugar, sees comparatively limited use in brewing. Despite its structural similarity to glucose, its distinct molecular configuration renders it less amenable to efficient yeast fermentation.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1940 (Villapudua, Chapter 218, Statutes of 2024) allows a wholesaler or manufacturer to accept the return of a seasonal brand of beer from a retail licensee if the beer is exchanged for a quantity of beer of similar quality, if the original manufacturer has ceased doing business.

AB 2991 (Valencia, Chapter 426, Statutes of 2024) required, commencing on January 1, 2026, a payment by an alcohol retail licensee to a wholesaler licensee for the delivery of beer, wine, or distilled spirits, to be made by EFT, except as specified.

AB 205 (Daly, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2019) revised the definition of "beer" for purposes of the ABC Act to provide that beer may be produced using honey, fruit juice, fruit concentrate, herbs, spices, and other food materials, as adjuncts in fermentation.

AB 1812 (Chesbro, Chapter 96, Statutes of 2012) added clarity to the definition of "beer" in the ABC Act by making it explicit that beer aged in an empty wooden barrel previously used to contain wine or distilled spirits shall be defined exclusively as "beer" and shall not be considered a dilution or mixture of any other alcoholic beverage.

SB 39 (Padilla, Chapter 140, Statutes of 2011) prohibits the import, production, manufacture, distribution, or sale of beer to which caffeine has been directly added as a separate ingredient at retail locations within the state.

AB 346 (Beall, Chapter 624, Statutes of 2008) provides that any container of beer or alcoholic beverage, other than sake, that is approved for labeling as a malt beverage under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act, that derives 0.5% or more of its alcoholic content by volume from flavors or other ingredients containing distilled alcohol and that is sold within this state on or after July 1, 2009, shall bear a distinctive, conspicuous, and prominently displayed label, or firmly affixed sticker, as defined.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, staff notes that the Department of ABC's activities are funded by regulatory and license fees and generally the department does not receive support from the General Fund. New legislative mandates, although modest in scope, may in totality create new cost pressures and impact the department's operating costs and future budget requests.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

California Restaurant Association
California Family Beer Distributors

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Family Beer Distributors, "AB 2375 preserves the purpose of AB 2991 and California's tied-

house credit laws – prompt payment and a level playing field, with no extension of unlawful credit – while giving retailers, wholesalers, and payment processors clear and consistent rules." According to the California Restaurant Association, "AB 2375 ensures restaurants, bars, and other licensees are not subject to unexpected withdrawals – instead, this common-sense legislation ensures that all payments are not only made within a reasonable time-frame, but that proper protections remain in place so that suppliers are paid on time."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Dixon, Flora, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/24/26 14:05:37

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2379
Author: Solache (D) and Carrillo (D), et al.
Amended: 7/2/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-12, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Family daycare homes: Fourth Amendment training

SOURCE: Child Care Providers United (CCPU)
SEIU California
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to designate a statewide entity, to develop and provide a training program on a person's rights under the Fourth Amendment, commencing July 1, 2026. This bill requires licensed family daycare home providers to complete this training by certain deadlines. This bill specifies a violation of this act is not subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties, nor a licensing citation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Provides that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. (Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution)

2) Establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of child care and development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age and their parents, including a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs. (Welfare and Institutions [WIC] §10207 et seq.)

3) Establishes the California Child Day Care Facilities Act to create a separate licensing category for child daycare centers and family day care homes within the existing licensing structure at CDSS. (Health and Safety Code [HSC] §1596.70 et seq.)

4) Defines "family daycare home" as a facility that regularly provides care, protection, and supervision for 14 or fewer children, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day, while the parents or guardians are away, and is either a large family day care home or a small family day care home, as defined. (HSC §1596.78)

5) Prohibits any person or entity operating a child daycare facility from providing care or supervision without a valid license from CDSS. (22 California Code of Regulations §101156(a))

6) Requires the licensee or administrator of a licensed child daycare facility to report to CDSS and the Attorney General any requests for information or access to the facility by an officer or employee of a law enforcement agency for the purpose of immigration enforcement. Prohibits a licensee or administrator from providing personal information, as defined, of staff, children in care, or their relatives and family members. (HSC §1597.640(b)(1)(A))

7) Requires the Attorney General, by April 1, 2026, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, as specified, to publish model policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at licensed child daycare facilities to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law, and ensuring that those facilities remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of immigration status. Requires the Attorney General to consider

certain issues when developing the model policies, as specified. (HSC §1597.640(f))

8) Requires CDSS to inform licensed child daycare facilities of the model policies published by the Attorney General. Requires a licensed child daycare facility to ensure parents or authorized representatives of children in care are aware of the model policies published by the Attorney General. (HSC §1597.640(g))

9) Requires a licensed child daycare facility to provide a child's parent or authorized representative with information about how to access the model policies as best practices guidance. Requires CDSS to inform licensed child daycare facilities of any revisions or updates to the model updates. Requires any information, policies, or guidance provided by facilities to parents or authorized representatives to be revised as necessary, as specified. (HSC §1597.640(h))

This bill:

1) Requires CDSS to notify all licensed and license-exempt family daycare home providers of a person's rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Requires the notice to include, but not be limited to, information relating to the protections against searches and seizures of a home and detentions and arrests of a person in a home by local, state, or federal law enforcement officers and employees, including the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, without providing valid identification, a written statement of purpose, and a valid judicial warrant.

2) Requires the notification to be developed and provided in coordination with the training required pursuant to 3) below.

3) Requires CDSS, with the concurrence of any exclusive representative for licensed and license-exempt family daycare home providers, to designate a statewide entity that has recent and significant experience in providing plain language, accessible child care worker training in multiple languages to develop and provide a training program about the rights and responsibilities of a family daycare home related to a person's rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Requires the training program to include the policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at licensed child daycare facilities.

4) Requires, commencing July 1, 2026, the designated statewide entity to offer the training program to licensed and license-exempt family daycare home providers. Requires family daycare home providers that are licensed on the date

that this bill becomes effective to complete this training no later than June 30, 2027, and family daycare home providers that are licensed after the date that this bill becomes effective to complete this training within 12 months of their initial licensing.

5) Provides that a violation of this section is not subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties, and shall not result in a licensee being subject to citation under this act.

6) Provides that this act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

Background

Purpose of the Bill. According to the author, "AB 2379 builds on existing sensitive location protections by ensuring family child care providers have the information and tools they need to protect themselves, the children in their care, and the families they serve. By educating providers of their constitutional rights, the bill helps keep child care doors open and safe from intimidation, misinformation, and unlawful searches or arrests by law enforcement, including federal immigration authorities.

"Consistent statewide notice and training is needed to eliminate confusion and alleviate fear among providers, particularly in immigrant communities. Requiring the Department of Social Services to provide clear notice to family daycare home providers regarding their constitutional rights when law enforcement or immigration authorities seek entry into a home-based child care setting and providing multilingual training to providers will help to prevent disrupted access to child care for families."

Family Child Care Home Licensure. Family child care, formerly called family daycare, is regularly provided care, protection, and supervision of children in the licensee's own home, known as a family child care home. Families who choose family child care for their child might do so because the family child care home is close to where they live, the provider speaks their home language, they prefer a home-like setting over a child care center, or their child is more comfortable with small class sizes. Family child care caregivers paid through subsidy are represented by Child Care Providers United.

The California Child Day Care Facilities Act of 1984 established the Child Care Licensing Program at CDSS. The mission of the Child Care Licensing Program is

to ensure the health and safety of children in care and to improve the quality of their care through regulation and consultation. This mission is accomplished through prevention, compliance, and enforcement.

Family child care providers are required to maintain certain information in each child's record, including basic information on the child such as name and birthdate, and emergency contact information. Licensees are required to keep these child records confidential, with the exception that a licensing agency may request to review and make copies of records. The law also permits a child's parent or guardian to review their child's record.

AB 495 (Celeste Rodriguez, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2025) prohibited licensed family child care homes and their employees from collecting information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of children or their family members. This bill requires CDSS to notify all licensed family child care home providers of a person's rights under the Fourth Amendment, requires CDSS to designate a statewide entity to provide training on those rights, and requires licensed family child care home providers to complete the training by June 30, 2027, or within 12 months of initial licensure. This bill provides that a violation of these provisions is not subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties and shall not result in a licensee being subject to a licensing citation.

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care. FFN care is care provided by grandparents, aunts, uncles, close relatives, friends, and neighbors in the child or caregiver's home. FFN care, formally referred to as license-exempt child care, is exempt from state licensure requirements. FFN is the predominant form of child care in California and the United States, especially for infants and toddlers, the age range when child care is most expensive. A report by Early Edge California and the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment estimates that one third to one half of all children under 5 are served through FFN care. In California, families may use a child care subsidy to pay for the cost of FFN care. FFN caregivers paid through subsidy are represented by Child Care Providers United.

Although there are no licensing requirements to become a FFN provider, California requires FFN providers to register with TrustLine, the state's background check program, to be paid with a child care subsidy. State law and regulations allow FFN providers to care for relatives or for the children of only one family in addition to the provider's own children. If an individual wants to provide care to non-relative children from more than one family, they need to obtain a family child care license.

This bill requires CDSS to notify all license-exempt family child care home providers of a person's rights under the Fourth Amendment and require CDSS to designate a statewide entity to provide training on those rights.

Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers Guidance and Model Policies. On April 1, 2026, pursuant to AB 495, the Office of the Attorney General published guidance and model policies for child care providers to keep child care facilities safe and accessible to all children and families in California, regardless of immigration status. The guidance includes several chapters to address the following questions related to immigration enforcement for child care providers:

- What sensitive information are you required to collect about the children and families you serve, and what information are you not allowed to collect?
- When are you required to share information with immigration or other law enforcement agents? What information are you not allowed to share?
- What do you need to do if immigration enforcement agents show up at your facility?
- What should you do if a child's family member is detained or deported?
- When are you required to update and share your policies?

The guidance also includes a detailed appendix with examples of warrants, subpoenas, and other enforcement documents; a summary of confidentiality laws; a "know your rights" guide for families; a quick reference best practices checklist and a quick reference requirements checklist; and a list of resources. This bill would require licensed family child care providers to complete training on a person's rights under the Fourth Amendment.

Comments

This bill seeks to educate family child care providers about their Fourth Amendment rights to be free from unreasonable search and seizure. On June 6, 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted a series of immigration raids across the Los Angeles area, leading to dozens of arrests. According to the Los Angeles Times, almost three-quarters had no criminal convictions, and more than half had never been charged with a crime. Additionally, a survey of 330 Mexican citizens in local detention centers found that half of respondents had lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years. In some cases, ICE has

detained U.S. citizens. These indiscriminate acts of profiling by ICE agents have caused heightened anxiety in immigrant communities and communities of color.

Fears about immigration enforcement are especially relevant to family child care providers, many of whom are immigrants. According to a 2025 survey by the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 44% of family child care providers were born in another country, and only 18% of those surveyed were white. This bill would ensure that both licensed and license-exempt family child care providers have access to information and training about their Fourth Amendment rights.

This bill would require a licensed family child care provider to take Fourth Amendment training. It is unclear how this would be tracked or enforced, and by whom. This bill is an urgency statute and requires an implementation date of July 1, 2026. According to Child Care Providers United, the union has already been conducting similar "know your rights" trainings.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2230 (Ávila Farías), among other things, would have prohibited licensed child daycare facility employees from allowing immigration enforcement from entering a licensed child daycare facility without a judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order. AB 2230 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 495 (Celeste Rodriguez, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2025) established the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025, which, in part, required licensed child daycare facilities to adopt model policies developed by the Attorney General regarding interaction with immigration enforcement authorities and required the Attorney General to develop those model policies.

AB 378 (Limón, Chapter 385, Statutes of 2019) authorized family child care home providers to form, join, and participate in the activities of a provider organization (union) of their own choosing for the purpose of representing them and bargaining on matters regarding the terms and conditions of their employment.

AB 450 (Chiu, Chapter 492, Statutes of 2017) prohibited an employer from providing access to a federal government immigration enforcement agent to any non-public areas of a place of labor if the agent does not have a warrant.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, "The CDSS estimates General Fund costs of $2,301,000 in 2027-28 and $2,287,000 annually thereafter for state

administration. This includes costs for state staffing resources and $1,600,000 to hire a contractor with immigration expertise to prepare and provide training, as CDSS does not have the expertise."

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Child Care Providers United (CCPU) (source)
SEIU California (source)
United Domestic Workers/AFSCME Local 3930 (source)
Alameda County Office of Education
All for Kids
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Afl-cio
First 5 Association of California
First 5 LA
Los Angeles County
Unidosus

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-12, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hoover, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/14/26 11:32:36

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2383
Author: Zbur (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 13-4, 6/30/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Wahab
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Dahle, Grove, Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-3, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Electricity: data centers

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a new rate class for data centers by January 1, 2028, and requires the CPUC to direct electrical corporations to file separate tariffs for transmission and distribution and generation services for data centers in the new rate class. This bill prohibits cost-shifts between the data center rate class and other electrical rate classes. This bill specifies requirements these tariffs must meet, including, but not limited to, establishing requirements for data centers to pre-pay for certain utility costs resulting from their interconnection. This bill also requires Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) to adopt generation tariffs for data centers that provide certain protections similar to those required in this bill for electrical corporation tariffs.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes the CPUC to supervise and regulate every public utility in the state and permits the CPUC to do anything that is necessary and convenient to exercise its power and jurisdiction. (Public Utilities Code §701)

2) Authorizes the CPUC to set rates for public utilities and specifies that every cost charged by utilities to customers must be just and reasonable. (Public Utilities Code §451)

3) Defines an electrical corporation as every corporation or person owning, controlling, operating, or managing any electric plant for compensation within this state, except where electricity is generated on or distributed by the producer through private property solely for its own use or the use of its tenants and not for sale or transmission to others. (Public Utilities Code §218)

4) Defines a load-serving entity (LSE) as an electrical corporation, Energy Service Provider (ESP), or CCA. Existing law specifies that a LSE does not include a local publicly owned electric utility (POU) or the State Water Project. (Public Utilities Code §380)

5) Creates the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) by establishing a state goal of procuring at least 60% of total retail sales of electricity from renewable energy resources by December 31, 2030, with specified benchmarks up to that date. Existing law requires the CPUC to oversee electrical corporations' compliance with renewable energy procurement mandates and requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to oversee POU renewable energy procurement compliance. (Public Utilities Code §399.11 et. seq.)

6) Establishes a policy to source 100% of all in-state retail electricity sales from zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045. Existing law requires the CPUC, CEC and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to incorporate this policy into all relevant plans. (Public Utilities Code §454.53)

7) Authorizes the CPUC to assess the extent to which electrical corporation costs for new loads from data centers result in cost shifts to other electrical corporation customers. Existing law specifies that this assessment must be published by January 1, 2027, and it must include the following:

   a) An analysis of potential electrical corporation costs associated with utility procurement for data center electricity consumption.

b) An analysis of potential electrical corporation costs associated with new transmission and distribution assets to serve new data centers or expansions of existing data centers, as specified.

c) Identification of opportunities to address any substantial cost shifts. (Public Utilities Code §913.22)

8) Establishes an opt-in permitting process at the CEC for certain non-fossil fueled power generation facilities. Existing law specifies certain criteria a facility must meet in order to qualify for this opt-in certification. These criteria include, but are not limited to, meeting certain labor standards for the construction of the facility seeking certification. Existing law specifies requirements regarding the use of a prevailing wage and skilled and trained workforce for opt-in permitting eligibility. (Public Resource Code §25545 et. seq.)

This bill:

1) Defines a "data center" as a structure that primarily contains electronic equipment used to process, store, and transmit digital information, using environmental control equipment to maintain the proper conditions for the operation of electronic equipment. The bill specifies that this definition does not include the following: a publicly funded research facility, public safety facility, publicly funded national security facility, publicly owned facility, or utility facility.

2) Requires the CPUC to establish a separate electric rate class for data centers by January 1, 2028. This bill specifies that this rate class must have its own tariff.

3) Requires the CPUC to direct each electrical corporation to file a transmission and distribution tariff does all the following:

a) Allocates the cost for serving the data center rate class in a manner that ensures that incremental utility costs for serving the class are not borne by other electrical rate classes.

b) Does not increase costs for other retail electricity consumers.

c) Ensures that transmission-interconnected data centers pay a reasonable share of costs relating to wildfire mitigation, wildfire liability, electrification and environmental programs, and other costs typically collected from distribution-level ratepayers.

d) Encourages the development of data centers that bring high-wage and high-skilled jobs to California.

e) Requires a data center to enter into a contract with a minimum duration of 10 years to pre-pay interconnection costs and associated distribution costs. This bill requires these contracts to include early termination fees at levels sufficient to ensure that costs are covered.

f) Requires a data center to certify to the CPUC that the electric customer meets labor requirements generally applied to non-fossil power generation facilities seeking opt-in permitting from the CEC.

4) Requires the CPUC to direct each electrical corporation to file a generation service tariff that does all the following:

a) Allocates the costs of serving the class of data centers in a manner that ensures that incremental costs for serving the class are not borne by other electrical rate classes.

b) Enables contracts for generation resources supporting utilities' ability to meet RPS and zero-carbon procurement goals.

c) Ensures that data centers provide equitable contributions to reliability and other programs funded through charges generally collected through the generation component of a customer's bill.

d) Does not increase costs for other retail electricity consumers.

e) Requires a data center to enter into a contract with the electrical corporation to prepay those incremental generation cost increases resulting from the data center's load. These contracts must be at least 10 years in duration and must include early termination fees sufficient to ensure the costs of serving the data center are covered.

f) Requires the data center to pay a minimum amount or percentage based on the data center's projected electricity usage for the duration of a generation service contract.

g) Requires the tariffed customer to report expected on-site generation located in front of the customer's meter.

h) Ensures that a tariffed data center does not receive compensation for onsite generation in a manner that would result in cost shifts to other retail electricity consumers.

5) Authorizes an electrical corporation to submit an exceptional case filing to obtain CPUC approval for a transmission interconnection agreement or generation contract with a data center if the CPUC has not yet adopted a tariff for these services pursuant to this bill. Any transmission interconnection agreement or generation contract with a data center established on or after January 1, 2027, must comply with this bill's requirements.

6) Requires a CCA to adopt a generation service tariff for data centers and establishes requirements for a CCA tariff that are similar to those required for electrical corporation tariffs.

7) Specifies that this bill's generation tariff requirements to not authorize the CPUC to regulate the rates, terms, or condition of electrical service provided by a CCA or ESP.

8) Clarifies that this bill does not expand the Direct Access program and specifies that this bill applies only to a data center that enters into a new transmission interconnection agreement on or after January 1, 2027.

9) Specifies that this bill will only become effective if Senate Bill 886 (Padilla) of the current legislative session is also enacted and becomes effective on January 1, 2026.

Background

Data center growth has triggered electric rate concerns and new utility procurement needs. Data centers in California vary in purpose and size, and many facilities meeting the definition of a data center do not primarily support generative artificial intelligence (AI). Even those data centers that do support generative AI can provide services for a wide variety of clients, including national defense installations, research universities and labs, government agencies, and telecommunications systems. While this bill broadly applies to all large energy consumers, data centers have been the primary focus of recent ratepayer concerns regarding cost shifts from the commercial and industrial sectors. According to a May 2024 report from the CEC, data centers comprise approximately 2% of the state's total annual electricity demand. The CEC anticipates that data centers' electricity consumption may double in the next 10 years without implementation of

any additional energy efficiency measures. Load growth from data centers has been substantially higher in other states. Pennsylvania – New Jersey – Maryland Interconnection (PJM) operates the largest regional grid in the United States. In January 2026, data from PJM indicated that 40% of its expected increased electricity demand will come from data centers. With this increase in electricity demands, PJM has seen record high costs for electricity to meet future reliability needs in addition to new transmission costs. Consumers in four states within PJM territory paid over $4 billion in 2024 alone for transmission projects serving data centers. California has not experienced the level of data center growth seen in some other states; however, a number of California's utilities are projecting substantial data center load growth in the next four years.

Data centers are not the only source of projected significant load growth. In forecasts focusing on near term demand, the CEC has shown that the California Independent System Operator may experience a 1.8 gigawatt (GW) load growth from data centers by 2030. However, the CEC's energy demand forecast covering 2025 through 2045 indicates that vehicle electrification will be the largest driver of peak electricity demand in the state by 2045. While data centers are expected to increase peak electricity demand by 4.7 GW by 2045, electric vehicles and associated charging infrastructure may contribute approximately 8.2 GW to peak demand. Regardless of the sector contributing to the largest share of future energy costs, serving these future loads will necessarily require additional resources. To address these needs, the CPUC has ordered utilities under its jurisdiction to collectively procure six GW of new zero emissions energy resources by 2032. This six GW procurement is intended to cover near-term load growth and account for delays in delivering previously planned renewable resources, including offshore wind resources.

Bill requires procurements for data centers to support clean energy goals, but emissions guarantees are not explicit. This bill requires data centers to enter into 10-year contracts to fund their incremental contribution to a utility's electricity demand. While this bill requires an electrical corporation to establish a tariff that enables procurement of resources that support the utility's ability to meet clean energy procurement goals, this bill does not expressly require data centers and electrical corporations to enter into contracts for non-emitting resources. The absence of explicit requirements regarding the types of resources that must be procured to meet data center load provides the CPUC with wide discretion about what types of resources are eligible for these 10-year contracts when approving electrical corporations' tariff filings.

Bill overlaps with ongoing CPUC proceedings. In addition to ordering new procurements to serve future load growth, the CPUC is also considering new tariffs and rate structures to prevent large loads from unduly burdening other ratepayers. In November 2024, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) filed an application at the CPUC to establish a new electric rule for retail electricity customers seeking interconnection at the transmission level (Application 24-11-007). According to PG&E's filings, data centers were 67% of the 34 transmission interconnection applications that PG&E received between 2023 and November 2024. In July 2025, the CPUC issued an initial decision (D. 25-07-039) that approved an interim PG&E electric rule for data centers that pre-pay the cost of interconnection. On April 9, 2026, the CPUC started the process to open a rulemaking on the California Advanced Electric Rate Design (R. 26-04-009). As part of this proceeding the CPUC intends to explore opportunities to address affordability challenges associated with wildfire costs and rapid load growth, including load from data centers. The CPUC's order opening this rulemaking indicates that the CPUC intends to publish a staff proposal on rate reforms as part of this proceeding in the 3rd Quarter of 2026. Since this bill would establish requirements for rate classes and tariffs that impact issues the CPUC intends to explore in its ongoing rate reform proceeding, this bill may require the CPUC to modify its ongoing rulemaking.

Getting the most from large megawatts (MW). A number of stakeholders, including utilities and research institutions, are identifying and developing mechanisms to support more demand responsive large loads that can respond to grid conditions and lower procurement costs. On June 22, 2026, the CEC approved grants for more than $21 million from the Electric Program Investment Charge to fund projects – including a project to develop of a flexible data center load capacity tool – to support beneficial electrification while increasing grid capacity and flexibility. Beneficial electrification can occur with large loads interconnecting in locations where excess capacity exists on the grid. Increasingly policymakers are seeking mechanisms to use large MW procurements for these beneficial electrification projects to lower overall electricity rates. The CPUC's Public Advocate's Office states the following regarding beneficial electrification's potential for ratepayer benefits:

> Expanding electrification can lower the average cost of electricity, provided it does not strain the system in ways that compromise reliability or require expensive upgrades. Policies should promote "beneficial electrification," by considering when and where energy is used to maintain safety, system reliability, control costs, and prevent inequities.

Beneficial electrification necessarily requires a large load to interconnect and take service at a specific location in coordination with the electric utility. Large loads that interconnect in locations that do not have excess capacity can exacerbate rate impacts by straining already limited resources. Data centers' need for a continuous electricity supply poses unique challenges to creating tariffs that encourage large load flexibility. To the extent that data centers locate in areas without excess capacity, this continuous demand can increase net peak load when electricity costs are highest, a larger mix of the supply is generated from fossil fuels, and where shortages are most likely to occur. Other large loads may be able to more readily adopt demand response technologies to the extent that they do not need a similar continuous supply of electricity from the grid.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing costs, likely in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (ratepayer funds), for the CPUC to open or expand a proceeding creating a new classification and rate schedule for data centers, evaluate cost allocation, stranded-cost, and cost-shift issues associated with those customers, develop minimum contract requirements between data centers and load-serving entities including contract duration, early termination fees, minimum payment requirements, and onsite-generation reporting, ensure consistency of those requirements across LSEs, and provide associated legal, policy, administrative, and Administrative Law Judge support — among other things.
- To the extent that this bill impacts electricity rates, it could result in costs or savings to the state as an electric utility ratepayer. The State of California is an electricity customer, purchasing roughly one percent of the state's electricity. As such, the state incurs costs when rates increase, and realizes cost savings if rates go down (various funds).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Bay Area Council
California State Association of Electrical Workers
California State Pipe Trades Council
E2
Engineers and Scientists of California, Local 20

Little Hoover Commission
NAACP California-Hawaii State Conference
National Diversity Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
SEIU California
Western States Council Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

Building Owners and Managers Association of California
CalAsian Chamber of Commerce
California African American Chamber of Commerce
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
California Large Energy Consumers Association
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
Climate Action Campaign
Data Center Coalition
Forefront Power, LLC
NAIOP California
Net-Zero California
TechCA
TechNet
The Utility Reform Network
Western States Petroleum Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

> California is recognized globally as a premier hub for the innovation economy, and specifically, with a leading footprint in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence. With the rapid growth of these technologies, the state must grapple with the associated development of large load data centers. AB 2383 advances affordability for electricity ratepayers by ensuring that data centers pay their fair share and that costs of providing service to these facilities are not borne by other ratepayers. This bill will ensure timely and efficient planning as the state prepares for the emergence of unprecedented demand on the electrical grid, and will be critical in protecting ratepayers and advancing system-wide reliability.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Opponents argue that this bill is unnecessary and could limit the growth of technology infrastructure. In opposition, the California Chamber of Commerce states:

> Unfortunately, the bill's structure provides a rigid statutory framework that could complicate project development, discourage investment in digital infrastructure, and constrain the CPUC's ability to tailor ratepayer protections to actual costs and system conditions. AB 2383 seeks to ensure that the costs of serving new data center loads are not shifted onto other ratepayers. That objective is appropriate, but it is already being addressed through existing utility tariffs, interconnection agreements, and ongoing CPUC proceedings. Rather than letting the CPUC develop a record, the bill dictates terms for transmission and distribution service, generation service, and tariffs offered by community choice aggregators and electric service providers.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-3, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Ellis, Hadwick
NO VOTE RECORDED: Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Sarah Smith / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/17/26 10:03:14

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2414
Author: Nguyen (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Developmental services: direct support professionals

SOURCE: California Disability Services Association

DIGEST: This bill defines "Direct Support Professional" for purposes of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act).

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 strike the requirement for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to develop billing guidance necessary to facilitate compensation associated with DSP University training.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Lanterman Act, which states that California is responsible for providing a range of services and supports sufficiently complete to meet the needs and choices of each person with developmental disabilities, regardless of age or degree of disability, and at each stage of life, and to support their integration into the mainstream life of the community. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] 4500 et seq.)

2) Establishes a system of nonprofit Regional Centers, overseen by DDS, to provide fixed points of contact in the community for all persons with developmental disabilities and their families, to coordinate services and supports best suited to them throughout their lifetime. (WIC § 4620)

3) States legislative intent to phase in funding and policies beginning in the 2021–22 fiscal year to implement developmental services rate reform, which shall include a quality incentive program, create an enhanced person-centered, outcomes-based system, and complete this transformation by July 1, 2025. (WIC §4519.10)

4) Finds and declares that Direct Support Professionals are critical to the provision of services and support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and, in recognition of the value of the services provided by Direct Support Professionals, additional training and development will enhance the services they provide and foster a more sustainable workforce. (WIC §4511.5(a))

5) Requires DDS to develop or utilize existing curriculum to implement enhanced Direct Support Professional training that promotes services that are person centered and culturally and linguistically sensitive, and that improve outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Provides it is the intent of the Legislature to enhance the quality of services that consumers receive from Direct Support Professionals, including, but not limited to, improving knowledge about general health and safety issues, employing principles of self-determination, and working to improve quality of services and quality of life, including advancing health equity for consumers of regional center services. Requires the enhanced Direct Support Professional training to include, but not be limited to, all of the following elements:

   a) Competency based.

   b) Tiered training and certification.

   c) Continuing education.

   d) Outcome measures, as defined by DDS, with input with stakeholders, as specified. (WIC §4511.5(b))

6) Requires DDS to consult with stakeholders throughout the implementation of enhanced Direct Support Professional training, as specified. (WIC §4511.5(c))

7) Requires DDS, commencing on July 1, 2025, and every other year thereafter, to review and update the rate models per the cost inputs available at the time of the review and post the updated rate models on its internet website no later than January 1 of the following year. Provides that an adjustment to a provider rate shall be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act and approval of federal funding. (WIC §4519.11)

8) Defines "substantial disability" as the existence of significant functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity, as determined by a regional center, and as appropriate to the age of the person:

   a) Self-care.

   b) Receptive and expressive language.

   c) Learning.

   d) Mobility.

   e) Self-direction.

   f) Capacity for independent living.

   g) Economic self-sufficiency. (WIC §4512(l)(1))

9) Defines, for community care facility licensing, "activities of daily living" as the following six activities: bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, continence, and eating. (22 California Code of Regulations [CCR] §80001(a)(1))

This bill:

1) Requires DDS, on or before April 1, 2027, to develop the billing guidance necessary to facilitate compensation associated with the enhanced Direct Support Professional training described in (5) above.

2) Defines "Direct Support Professional" as an individual who receives compensation to provide direct support to children or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is employed by a service provider receiving regional center funding, and spends at least 50% of their working time completing direct support tasks, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

   a) Services that enhance independence and community inclusion.

b) Assisting with skill development, including personal and vocational coaching.

c) Providing assistance with activities of daily living.

3) Renames "direct service professional" to "Direct Support Professional" throughout the Lanterman Act.

Background

Purpose of the Bill. According to the author, "Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are on the front lines, providing direct and essential support to California's community of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs). This workforce ensures that folks with IDDs maintain their dignity, independence, and access to social opportunities by providing a wide range of supports, including job coaching and employment support, mobility assistance, wound care, and the administration of medication. Unfortunately, California is currently facing a DSP workforce shortage, which severely reduces supports and services for the IDD community. Low wages in exchange for this highly skilled labor are forcing workers to seek employment in other industries to make ends meet.

"AB 2414 addresses this issue by standardizing references to DSPs throughout state law, strengthening workforce recognition, enabling consistent data collection, and supporting more effective policy development. By ensuring DSPs are formally recognized in state law, this bill also increases access to supports and services for individuals with IDDs."

Lanterman Act. In 1969, the Lanterman Act established that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have a right to receive the necessary services and supports required to live independently in the community. The Lanterman Act enumerates the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as the rights of their families, the services and supports available to these individuals, and how regional centers and service providers work together to provide these services and supports. The term "developmental disability" is defined as a disability that originates before a person reaches 18 years of age, is expected to continue indefinitely, and is a significant disability for the individual. Such disabilities include, among others: epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and cerebral palsy. There are no income-related eligibility criteria to access developmental services. The Department of Finance estimates that approximately 487,114 individuals will receive developmental services in 2025–26, increasing to 526,848 in 2026–27.

Regional Centers and Provider Vendorization. In addition to establishing the rights of individuals, the Lanterman Act also created California's regional center system, comprised of 21 nonprofit regional centers throughout the state whose primary purpose is to connect individuals with services in the community. Regional centers contract with service providers, or vendors, to provide services to consumers. DDS and regional centers use the term "vendorization" to describe the approval process involved in preparing to provide services to regional center consumers, which typically involves obtaining additional licenses or approvals from other state and local agencies prior to becoming a vendor. Service providers must be vendored by a regional center before they can provide and be reimbursed for services.

Direct Support Professional Workforce. Service providers employ Direct Support Professionals, referred to in statute as direct *service* professionals, to work directly with consumers. Services and supports available to consumers may include independent and supported living, day programs, and employment services, among others. According to the Administration for Community Living:

> [Direct Support Professionals] support people with disabilities in a wide variety of ways, based upon the unique needs of the person receiving support. Many provide assistance with activities of daily living, but their role is much broader than that. [Direct Support Professionals] may also provide job coaching and employment support, independent living skills training, assistance with accessing resources and opportunities in the community, and more. Without [Direct Support Professionals], many people with disabilities would not be able to live independently.

According to the Association of Regional Center Agencies, the number of Direct Support Professionals in California's developmental services system is estimated at around 100,000.

DSP University. DSP University was established through the 2021 Budget Act to improve service quality, promote equity and culturally responsive services, strengthen the Direct Support Professional workforce, and support retention through career pathways. DSP University is a free, voluntary, statewide, competency-based training and certification program for Direct Support Professionals. It provides structured training through three tiers of training content, including foundational understanding of the developmental services system, the individuals they support, and core knowledge and skills to encourage health, safety, and well-being; quality of life outcomes beyond safety and physical well-

being; mandatory reporting training; and advanced specialization in specific areas of practice.

Participation in DSP University is voluntary. To be eligible, a Direct Support Professional must meet all of the following criteria:

- Primarily providing direct support to children and/or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Providing support and supervision.
- Support individuals to learn new skills or continue to perform tasks independently.
- Ensuring optimal health and safety and assisting with household upkeep to maintain a clean, safe, and hazard-free environment.
- Assisting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with skills development, guidance, and personal assistance.
- Spending at least 50% of their work hours performing direct support tasks.
- Being funded by a regional center.

This bill defines a Direct Support Professional as an individual who receives compensation to provide direct support to children or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is employed by a service provider receiving regional center funding, and spends at least 50% of their working time completing direct support tasks, as specified.

Comments

This bill defines Direct Support Professional and cleans up inconsistent references in statute. The definition of Direct Support Professional in this bill aligns with eligibility criteria for DSP University, which was established to enhance the quality of services and improve outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1575 (Arambula) would change the word "consumer" to "person eligible for regional center services" throughout the Lanterman Act. AB 1575 is pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 2423 (Mathis, Chapter 904, Statutes of 2024) required DDS, commencing July 1, 2025, and every other year thereafter, to review and update the rate models included in the rate study for developmental services providers. AB 2423 required DDS to post the updated rate models on its internet website no later than January 1 of the following year and provided that adjustments to provider rates shall be contingent upon an appropriation.

AB 136 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 76, Statutes of 2021), a budget trailer bill, required DDS to develop and implement a Direct Support Professional training curriculum (DSP University) that promotes person-centered services that are culturally and linguistically sensitive and improves consumer outcomes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown General Fund cost pressures, potentially hundreds of thousands annually, to provide compensation associated with the training for direct support professionals.

- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) indicates no fiscal impact for state operations since the department already utilizes the term "direct support professional" and is developing billing guidance to support enhanced, training-based compensation using existing funds.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Disability Services Association (source)
Association of Regional Center Agencies
California Respite Association
Manos
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Diana Dominguez / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 12:10:53

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2417
Author: Zbur (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Cortese, Durazo, Laird

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/22/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State Teachers' Retirement System: community colleges: part-time faculty

SOURCE: California Federation of Teachers

DIGEST: This bill requires a community college district to provide temporary faculty employees the option to participate in social security, the CalSTRS defined benefit program, the CalSTRS Cash Balance Benefit program, if offered, or the CalPERS defined benefit program, and requires the CCC Chancellor's Office to work with CalSTRS to develop specified information materials on retirement programs opportunities for the CCC temporary faculty.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires public employers, under federal law, to provide their employees with either social security coverage or membership in a qualified retirement plan, as specified. (Public Law 101-508, § 11335)

2) Provides, under state law, defined benefit pension plans for public employers that meet the federal requirement of a qualified retirement plan, including, among others, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) defined benefit plan, the California State Teachers Retirement Plan (CalSTRS) defined benefit (DB), and CalSTRS Cash Balance (CB) Benefit Program plan. (Government Code § 20000 et seq.; Education Code § 22000 et seq.; and Education Code § 26001 et seq.)

3) Requires a district to classify specified employees (i.e., those employed to teach for not more than 67 percent of the regular full-time weekly assignment) as a temporary employee. (Education Code § 87482.5(a))

4) Provides CalSTRS' CB plan for, among others, temporary community college district employees excluded from CalSTRS' DB plan, as specified. (Education Code § 26000 et seq.)

5) Requires the district to provide specified information about the CB plan to eligible temporary employees within 10 days of the employee's first day of employment. (Education Code § 26300)

This bill:

1) Requires a community college district to provide a temporary faculty employee the option of membership in CalSTRS' Defined Benefit (DB) Program, its Cash Balance Benefit Program if offered by the district, or social security.

2) Clarifies that the district may also offer an alternative retirement option *in addition* to those required by this bill.

3) Requires CalSTRS, in consultation with CalPERS, to post on its internet website on or before July 1, 2027, links to information regarding the differences between membership and contributions made to the Defined Benefit Program and the Cash Balance Benefit Program and under coverage by the federal Social Security Act; examples covering the amount of time required to vest in benefits offered by the Defined Benefit Program and the Cash Balance Benefit Program and under coverage by the federal Social Security Act; and examples of the impact of having credits provided under coverage by the federal Social Security Act.

4) Requires the district to provide, commencing July 1, 2027, informational materials maintained by CalSTRS, as specified, to a newly hired person classified as temporary faculty.

Background

According to CalSTRS:

"Members and participants of CalSTRS' DB and CB Benefit programs do not contribute to SSA for their CalSTRS-covered employment. Under current law, to retain an exemption from mandatory SSA coverage, a state must offer a retirement plan with commensurate benefits to SSA, known as a FICA-replacement plan. CalSTRS' DB and CB Benefit programs both serve as suitable FICA-replacement plans."

"Generally, an individual contributing to SSA can earn up to four credits a year and must earn minimum of 40 credits to be eligible for an SSA retirement benefit. A person's benefit is calculated based on their highest 35 years of SSA-covered earnings. For those with less than 35 years of earnings, SSA fills the remaining years with zeros, which lowers the average benefit. This means that working a career with some covered and some non-covered employment could dilute an individual's average earnings, resulting in a lower SSA benefit. The Social Security Administration estimates SSA benefits replace about 40% of annual pre-retirement earnings for career SSA contributors. By comparison, a career educator in CalSTRS' DB Program receives an average DB benefit replacing between 50% and 60% of salary. Still, an individual whose primary career was in non-SSA-covered employment might choose to contribute to SSA on a part-time basis to earn sufficient credits to qualify for a modest SSA benefit."

"Prior to 2025, CalSTRS members seeking to claim an SSA benefit were subject to two provisions that could negatively impact their benefit—the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP reduced SSA benefits for individuals who also received a pension for non-SSA covered work via a modified formula for calculating an individual's own SSA benefit. The GPO similarly reduced spousal and survivor SSA benefits payable to those receiving a government pension, such as through CalSTRS. On January 5, 2025, President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act, which repealed these two provisions."

Need for this bill? According to the author, part-time community college employees sometime come to the education field after careers in other industries where they earned retirement credits in Social Security. They may be unaware of the potential personal implications of selecting the most common retirement options in the public education field: CalSTRS' Defined Benefit or Cash Balance plans or an alternative option, instead of Social Security. Those plans are excellent for employees who start their careers early and stay continuously in the education

field. They may not provide much benefit for people who come later in their careers and may prevent those people from earning the 40 credits necessary to qualify for Social Security, since positions covered by those plans are typically excluded from Social Security. Since coverage under those plans means neither the employer nor the employee pay into Social Security, it may be tempting for the employee to elect those plans instead of Social Security and for the employer not to promote Social Security as an option. Thus, the employee who is unaware of the complicated interaction of these different retirement options may end up with very little retirement benefit and not enough credits to qualify for Social Security.

Related/Prior Legislation

H.R. 82 (Graves-LA, 2025) repealed the federal Windfall Elimination Provision and Governmental Pension Offset provisions for Social Security benefit recipients.

AB 3221 (Gallegos, Chapter 383, Statutes of 1996) among other changes combining existing
retirement election provisions, added employer notification requirements to Education Code
section 22509.

AB 1298 (Ducheny, Chapter 592, Statutes of 1995) established the CalSTRS Cash Balance Plan, including the requirement for employers to inform employees of their right to elect membership in an alternative plan.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations committee:

- CCCCO would incur minor and absorbable costs to develop the required informational materials.
- The bill would result in minor and absorbable costs to CalSTRS and CalPERS.

- This bill could increase state pension contributions to the extent that additional part-time community college employees enroll in a state retirement system as a result of the bill. The annual fiscal impact is unknown, but could exceed $50,000 annually (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

California Federation of Teachers (source)
California Community College Independents
California Federation of Labor Unions
California School Employees Association
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Service Employees International Union, California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Federation of Teachers:

"New part-time faculty may not be aware of the long-term requirements, benefits, and drawbacks of the retirement benefits they can choose between. In many instances, these workers have accumulated decades of service credit in social security, and may not work as a part-time faculty member long enough so that starting over in a new pension system makes financial sense."

"AB 2417 brings clarity, ensuring part-timers both have the option of Social Security and a basic understanding of what options they have for retirement planning. The bill accomplished the latter by asking the community college chancellor's office to work with CalSTRS to develop informational materials that cover the financial retirement options available to part-time college faculty. This way, newly employed educators will have the most relevant information at hand so they can make the best-informed decision for their own retirement security."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/22/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Glenn Miles / L., P.E. & R. / (916) 651-1556
8/17/26 10:03:10

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2433
Author: Alvarez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Housing development: density bonus

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to density bonus law (DBL).

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 address chaptering conflicts with AB 2480 (Ávila Farías) and SB 1383 (Arreguín).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires cities and counties to grant a density bonus when an applicant for a housing development — defined as "five or more units" including mixed-use developments — seeks and agrees to construct a project that will contain at least one of the following:

   a) 10% of the total units of a housing development for lower-income households;

b) 5% of the total units of a housing development for very low-income households;

c) A senior citizen housing development or mobile home park;

d) 10% of the units in a common interest development (CID) for moderate-income households;

e) 10% of the total units for transitional foster youth, veterans, or persons experiencing homelessness;

f) 20% of the total units for lower-income students in a student housing development; or

g) 100% of the units of a housing development for lower-income households, except that 20% of units may be for moderate-income households.

2) Requires a city or county to allow an increase in density on a sliding scale from 20% to 80%, depending on the percentage of units affordable to low- and very low-income households, over the otherwise maximum allowable residential density under the applicable zoning ordinance and land use element of the general plan. Requires the increase in density, on a sliding scale, for moderate-income for-sale developments from 5% to 50% over the otherwise allowable residential density.

3) Requires a local government to grant an additional density bonus on top of the bonus in 2) if the applicant agrees to include additional rental or for-sale units affordable to very low-income households or moderate-income households.

4) Provides that, upon the developer's request, the local government may not require parking standards greater than the parking ratios specified in DBL.

5) Requires applicants to receive concessions and incentives depending on the percentage of affordable housing included in the proposed development. "Concessions and incentives" means the following:

a) A reduction in site development standards, or a modification of zoning code requirements, or architectural design requirements, that exceed the minimum building standards, including, but not limited to, a reduction in setback and square footage requirements and in the ratio of vehicular parking spaces that would otherwise be required, resulting in identifiable and actual cost reductions, to provide for affordable housing costs, as specified;

b) Approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project if commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses will reduce the cost of the housing development and if the commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses are compatible with the housing project and the existing or planned development in the area where the proposed housing project will be located; and,

c) Other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the developer or the city, county, or city and county that result in identifiable and actual cost reductions to provide for affordable housing costs, as specified.

6) Provides that the granting of a density bonus, incentive, or concession shall not be interpreted in and of itself, to require a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, or other discretionary approval.

7) Establishes procedures for calculating the maximum allowable residential density, or base density, of the project, for which the bonus is to be calculated based on.

8) Provides that, in no case, may a local government apply any development standard that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development at the densities or with the concessions or incentives permitted by DBL.

This bill:

1) Requires a city or county to comply with DBL if the jurisdiction determines an applicant meets at least one of the affordability criteria that would make a housing development project (project) eligible for a density bonus under DBL as opposed to requiring compliance if the applicant *seeks* a density bonus.

2) Requires a local government, after it is required to notify an applicant for a density bonus whether their application is deemed complete, to provide the applicant with a determination as to whether the project is eligible for a density bonus.

3) Grants two additional concessions and incentives to projects that include for-sale units.

4) Prohibits the granting of a waiver or reduction of development standards, concession, or incentives to be discretionary actions, or from requiring a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, study, or other

discretionary approval or environmental review for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

5) Prohibits the granting of a density bonus to be discretionary or to require environmental review for purposes of CEQA, in addition to existing prohibitions to require a general plan amendment, local coastal plan amendment, zoning change, or other discretionary approval.

6) Provides that if an applicant provides a base density study, the applicant may elect to receive a density bonus in the form of a percentage increase in maximum floor area ratio (FAR). If an applicant elects to use density bonus to increase FAR, the applicant may not use a waiver, concession, or incentive to further modify FAR.

7) Permits the density bonus, incentives or concessions, and waivers or reductions of development standards, to be on sites that are the subject of the same housing development. The density bonus shall be permitted anywhere in the geographic are of the same housing development, including areas outside of the areas where the units for the lower-income households are located.

8) Provides that more deeply affordable units may be substituted for less deeply affordable units to satisfy the moderate-income unit percentage requirements for additional benefits provided in DBL.

9) Makes other technical and conforming changes.

Background

According to an April 2026 report by Circulate Planning & Policy, a San Diego-based transportation and land-use policy nonprofit, DBL is one of California's most successful housing streamlining laws in recent years.[1] Circulate Planning & Policy's report notes:

"Since the adoption of Assembly Bill 2345, [Density] Bonus Law has become the most widely used streamlining law tracked by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. It was not understood at the time of its adoption to be a transformative law. Nevertheless, after its adoption [Density] Bonus Law has been used to approve:

[1] Circulate Planning & Policy, "Win-Win Bonus: How California's Bonus Law quietly transformed housing approvals

- More than 140,000 homes overall;
- More than 69,000 deed-restricted affordable homes;
- In 2024, 47 percent of all homes approved in multifamily projects;
- In 2024, 78 percent of all homes in 100 percent affordable projects; and
- In 2024, ten times more homes than every other tracked streamlining law."

The report notes that in 2024, 30% of multifamily homes approved by cities and counties were eligible for density bonus law but did not use it. The report identifies several recommendations for legislation to further enhance density bonus law, including, among others, that:

- Projects that are eligible for density bonus law should automatically be granted the law's benefits, rather than requiring an opt in;
- The law should more concretely apply to the California Coastal Commission, which regulates development in the Coastal Zone; and
- The law should be renamed to reduce the emphasis on "density."

The author wants to further boost utilization of DBL.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "Over the past five years, Bonus Law has entitled more than 140,000 homes across the state, making it the most utilized and successful housing streamlining program in California law according to an April 2026 report by Circulate Planning & Policy. In 2024, nearly half of new California townhouses or apartments were in projects that relied on the density bonus. AB 2433, the Affordable Homeownership Bonus Law, builds on that success by making homeownership more attainable for the people who make our communities work. Specifically, the bill modernizes incentives for builders who commit to affordable housing that's for-sale, holds cities accountable to clear timelines, and removes unnecessary barriers that have slowed or blocked good projects for years. When a homebuilder is willing to do the right thing and build homes working families can afford, state law should not stand in the way. The bill re-affirms existing environmental safeguards that the Legislature adopted in AB 130 (2025) and does not interfere with the Coastal Act. Please join me in making the California dream a reality for more working families. Support the Affordable Homeownership Bonus Law."

Uncle. Legislators have amended density bonus law 23 times in the past decade and authored scores more bills on local land use planning and permitting during that time. Each change requires cities and counties statewide to review and modify their procedures to ensure they are compliant with the law, directing their efforts away from acting on housing project applications. AB 2433 layers on significant new changes to the procedures for DBL that will require local governments to modify procedures for reviewing any development applications. AB 2433 requires this change to increase uptake of density bonus law by developers. But by requiring permitting staff to adjust to new procedures, AB 2433 may, at least in the short term, slow down permitting of density bonus projects. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the application process is a significant obstacle to the use of DBL. For example, Circulate San Diego's report states, "It is notable that there is a declining share of eligible projects that are forgoing the benefits available to them under [Density] Bonus Law. This may indicate that the use of the program is growing not just because of changes to policy, but from growing familiarity with how it can be used. More homebuilders are choosing to use the policy, just as more jurisdictions may be understanding and accepting their obligations under it." Accordingly, the share of projects using DBL may continue to increase absent this measure. AB 2433's changes, while well intended, may impose costs or other friction in the development process that work counter to this bill's goals.

Other duties as assigned. DBL currently requires a developer to apply for the density bonus and request waivers, concessions, and incentives. AB 2433 flips this requirement to require the city or county, upon receipt of an application that meets the requirements of DBL, to tell the developer the density bonus they are eligible for. AB 2433 puts local planning officials in the position of telling developers the extent to which they may undermine the standards adopted by their city council or board of supervisors. Is this an appropriate role for local government employees?

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

Abundant Housing Los Angeles
Bay Area Council
Cal Chamber
California Building Industry Association
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
California Yimby
Circulate Planning & Policy
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities

Environmental Protection Information Center
Fieldstead and Company, INC.
Greenbelt Alliance
Habitat for Humanity California
Housing Action Coalition
Inner City Law Center
Leadingage California
New California Coalition
Prosperity Action
San Diego Housing Commission
San Diego Housing Federation
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Business Council
Spur
Student Homes Coalition
The Two Hundred for Homeownership

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Cities for Local Control
City of Belmont
City of Beverly Hills
City of Carlsbad
City of Milpitas
City of Thousand Oaks
Families and Homes San Jose
Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers
Mission Street Neighbors
Neighbors for a Better San Diego
Save Lafayette
Town of Truckee

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Boerner, Connolly, Irwin, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Tangipa

Prepared by: Anton Favorini-Csorba / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/24/26 13:56:02

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2434
Author: Bonta (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-1, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-16, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Inmates: visitation

SOURCE: Essie Justice Group

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities to provide an incarcerated person with contact visits unless the person is housed in restricted housing; and 2) prohibits CDCR from denying visiting privileges for a disciplinary matter or rule violation unrelated to visitation; and establishes limitations on a CDCR facility's ability to search visitors without their voluntary, informed, and written consent.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26:

- Alter the definition of a "credible security threat";
- Require CDCR facilities to "establish" at least three days of visitation per week rather than "be open" for three days of visitation, and to provide notice whenever a facility will not be open for visitation;

- Delete the provision that prohibited a CDCR facility from denying or interfering with visiting privileges for a disciplinary matter or rule violation unrelated to visitation;
- Add a provision that provides specified rule violations for which visiting privileges may be limited, provided such limitations are reasonable under the circumstances;
- Define "correctable issue" to mean "a circumstance that can reasonably be remedied by the visitor on the day of the visit without compromising facility safety or security," including specified examples;
- Clarify that when there is a correctable issue, staff must offer a noncontact visit, if space is available, when appropriate;
- Alter a provision of the bill such that a visit may not be denied if a person has traveled more than 170 miles to attend the visit *and* has not visited within 30 days, rather than if a person has traveled more than 100 miles *or* has not visited within 30 days;
- Clarify that if a person refuses a voluntary search, the facility may—rather than must—offer a noncontact visit on the same day if space is available, or may deny the visit;
- Delete the requirement that CDCR facilities conduct all searches in the least intrusive manner reasonably available and limit searches to what is strictly necessary to address the specific security concern;
- Insert a requirement that CDCR facilities must conduct all searches of visitors in a manner and to an extent that is reasonable under the totality of the identified circumstances and the legitimate safety and security concerns involved. Further, staff must limit the scope, duration, and intrusiveness of the search to that which is reasonably capable of addressing the identified concern;
- Clarify that the bill's rules governing unclothed body searches do not apply if the facility has a court-issued warrant or has placed the visitor under arrest;
- Clarify that the facility may not conduct physical body cavity searches without a court-issued warrant for the search, while such warrants are not necessary for strip searches or any other searches involving physical intrusion;
- Delete the provision that states a facility may not require visitors who use wheelchairs or assistive devices to transfer to a facility wheelchair; and
- Add a provision that states that visitors who use wheelchairs or assistive devices may transfer to a facility wheelchair while the device is inspected, but if transfer is not feasible, and the visitor provides a doctor's note, the facility may permit visitors to remain in their own wheelchair, or use the visitor's assistive device, while the wheelchair or device is inspected using the least intrusive means available.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that any amendments to existing regulations and any future regulations adopted by CDCR that may impact visitation of incarcerated persons shall do all of the following:
   a) Recognize and consider the value of visiting as a means to improve the safety of prisons for both staff and incarcerated persons;
   b) Recognize and consider the important role of incarcerated person visitation in establishing and maintaining a meaningful connection with family and community;
   c) Recognize and consider the important role of incarcerated person visitation in preparing an incarcerated person for successful release and rehabilitation. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 6400, subds. (a)-(c).)

2) Requires CDCR to develop policies related to the department's contraband interdiction efforts for individuals entering CDCR detention facilities, including among others:
   a) Application to all individuals, including visitors;
   b) Use of methods to ensure that profiling is not practiced during random searches or searches of all individuals entering the prison at that time;
   c) Establishment of unpredictable, random search efforts and methods;
   d) All visitors attempting to enter a CDCR detention facility shall be informed that they may refuse to be searched by a passive alert dog; and
   e) All visitors attempting to enter a CDCR detention facility, who have a positive alert for contraband by an electronic drug detection device, a passive alert dog, or other technology, shall be informed of further potential search or visitation options. (Pen. Code, § 6404, subds. (a)-(e).)

3) Requires CDCR, for an in-person visit, to allow a visitor with an infant or toddler to bring items related to the care of the child. (Pen. Code, § 6405, subd. (b).)

4) Defines "strip search," "physical body cavity search," and "visual body cavity search" as follows:
   a) "Body cavity" means the stomach or rectal cavity of a person, and the vagina of a female person;
   b) "Physical body cavity search" means physical intrusion into a body cavity for the purpose of discovering any object concealed in the body cavity;

c) "Strip search" means a search which requires a person to remove or arrange some or all of his or her clothing so as to permit a visual inspection of the underclothing, breasts, buttocks, or genitalia of such person; and
d) "Visual body cavity search" means visual inspection of a body cavity. (Pen. Code, § 4030, subd. (c).)

This bill:

1) Requires each CDCR facility to remain open for visitation at least three days per week.

2) Prohibits a facility from denying, revoking, suspending, limiting, or interfering with visiting privileges for a disciplinary matter or rule violation unrelated to visitation.

3) Prohibits a facility from immediately denying visitors entry based on correctable issues, including, but not limited to, dress code violations, excess number of accompanying minors, or missing documentation. Requires that for correctable issues, staff shall do all of the following: provide clear and specific guidance on how to remedy the issue; allow the visitor a reasonable opportunity to correct the issue and return to visiting up to one hour before the end of the visiting period; permit the visit to proceed once the issue is resolved; and offer reasonable alternatives, including a noncontact visit, if space is available, when correction is not possible that day.

4) Requires the facility, if a visit is denied on the day of visiting for a non-correctable issue, to provide written documentation to the visitor on the same day stating: the specific reason for denial; the length of the denial and explaining how to appeal.

5) Provides that a visit may not be denied if a person has traveled more than 100 miles to attend a visit or has not visited within 30 days, unless there has been a finding of a credible and documented security threat.

6) Authorizes a facility to subject any person coming onto the property to routine screening or a voluntary search to ensure facility security and prevent the introduction or removal of contraband.

7) Prohibits a facility from searching visitors without their voluntary, informed, and written consent unless facility officials possess a court-issued warrant or the individual is lawfully detained pursuant to other law. Prohibits the facility from

conducting strip searches, body cavity searches, and any search involving physical intrusion without a court-issued warrant for the search.

8) Requires a facility to give visitors information regarding their right to refuse a voluntary search before providing their written consent to the search. Prohibits a facility from forcibly searching any visitor who does not consent to a search. States that if a person refuses a voluntary search, as specified, the facility may only deny contact visiting for that day. States that the facility may offer a noncontact visit on the same day, if space is available, unless there is an immediate and credible security threat.

9) Prohibits a facility from punishing refusal to consent to a search with suspension, termination, or future restriction of visitation privileges, nor shall the refusal to consent to a search be recorded as misconduct in any permanent record.

10) Requires a facility, for any visitor who is denied visitation or has visitation restricted due to failing a search or refusing to consent to a search, at the time of that denial, to issue a written notice detailing what occurred, the date, time, who was present, and the underlying rationale given to the visitor for the denial or restriction.

11) Requires a facility to conduct all searches in the least intrusive manner reasonably available and to limit searches to what is strictly necessary to address the specific security concern.

12) Provides that clothed body searches conducted by the facility shall consist of a visual inspection and use of a hand-held wand, and the facility shall prohibit physical contact by staff.

13) Requires a facility to conduct unclothed body searches only after providing notice that the search is voluntary, obtaining the visitor's written consent, and with reasonable suspicion that contraband is concealed on the body and no less intrusive means are available. Requires the facility to require written supervisory approval for unclothed searches documenting the specific facts supporting reasonable suspicion.

14) Prohibits CDCR from conducting strip searches, visual body cavity searches, and physical body cavity searches of visitors who are under 18 years of age, unless CDCR has probable cause and obtains a warrant to search. Requires

CDCR, if there is probable cause that a minor visitor is attempting to introduce contraband, unauthorized substances, or other unauthorized items into the institution, to notify the visitor and their parent or guardian in writing, and requires CDCR to receive written consent from the visitor and their parent or guardian prior to conducting the search. Authorizes CDCR, if probable cause exists but the visitor and their parent or guardian do not consent to the visitor being searched, to offer a noncontact visit, if feasible, or to deny the visit.

15) States that the facility shall permit all visitors who cannot clear a metal detector due to a medically implanted or prosthetic device to present written verification from a licensed health care provider describing the device and its location.

16) Prohibits the facility from requiring renewal of that verification for permanent devices unless there is a material change in the device.

17) Prohibits the facility from requiring visitors who use wheelchairs or assistive devices to transfer to a facility wheelchair and requires the facility to permit visitors to remain in their own wheelchair while the device is inspected using the least intrusive means available.

18) Prohibits the facility from punishing failure to present documentation under this provision with permanent suspension of visitation but authorizes the facility to require alternative screening measures or a noncontact visit for that day.

19) Requires the facility to require that all searches be conducted professionally, respectfully, and without harassment, intimidation, or retaliatory intent.

20) Requires the facility to inform visitors of their right to file a complaint and prohibit retaliation for filing complaints.

21) Defines “credible security threat” to mean specific, articulable, and documented facts that establish a reasonable belief that a visitor or incarcerated person presents an immediate and identifiable risk of introducing contraband, facilitating escape, or causing physical harm within the facility. A credible security threat shall be based on objective information, including reliable intelligence, direct observation, or verified evidence, and shall not be based solely on generalized safety concerns, institutional convenience, anonymous or uncorroborated allegations, personal characteristics, protected traits, prior criminal history unrelated to institutional or visitor safety or security, refusal to consent to a voluntary search, or the mere existence of a past rule violation

unless the circumstances of that violation create a safety or security risk to other visitors or incarcerated individuals or institutional security.

22) Defines "routine screening" to mean a standardized, minimally intrusive inspection process applied uniformly to all visitors as a condition of entry, for the limited purpose of detecting weapons or contraband. Routine screening shall consist only of passage through a walk-through metal detector or hand-held metal detection wand, visual inspection of personal property, or screening by electronic detection equipment applied in the same manner to all visitors.

Background

This bill substantially overhauls the rules governing prison visitation. This bill requires each CDCR facility to remain open for visitation at least three days per week. Further, a facility shall not deny, revoke, suspend, limit, or interfere with visiting privileges for a disciplinary matter or rule violation unrelated to visitation.

The bill prohibits a facility from immediately denying visitors entry based on a correctable issue, including, but not limited to, dress code violations, excess number of accompanying minors, or missing documentation. For correctable issues, CDCR staff must provide clear and specific guidance on how to remedy the issue; allow the visitor a reasonable opportunity to correct the issue and return to visiting up to one hour before the end of the visiting period; or offer a noncontact visit, if space is available, when appropriate. This bill requires the facility, if a visit is denied on the day of visiting for a non-correctable issue, to provide written documentation to the visitor on the same day stating the specific reason for denial; and the length of the denial and explaining how to appeal. A visit may not be denied if a person has traveled more than 100 miles to attend a visit or has not visited within 30 days, unless there has been a finding of a credible and documented security threat.

The bill further provides that a facility may subject any person coming onto the property to routine screening or a voluntary search to ensure facility security and prevent the introduction or removal of contraband. However, the bill prohibits a facility from searching visitors without their voluntary, informed, and written consent unless facility officials possess a court-issued warrant or the individual is lawfully detained pursuant to other law. Under the bill, a facility must conduct all searches in the least intrusive manner reasonably available and limit searches to what is strictly necessary to address the specific security concern.

The bill requires a facility to give visitors information regarding their right to refuse a voluntary search before providing their written consent to the search. The bill prohibits a facility from forcibly searching any visitor who does not consent to a search. If a person refuses a voluntary search, as specified, the facility may only deny contact visiting for that day. The facility may offer a noncontact visit on the same day, if space is available, unless there is an immediate and credible security threat.

The bill states that clothed body searches conducted by the facility must consist of a visual inspection and use of a hand-held wand, and the facility shall prohibit physical contact by staff. The bill further prohibits the facility from conducting strip searches, body cavity searches, and any search involving physical intrusion without a court-issued warrant for the search. The bill also prohibits strip searches, visual body cavity searches, and physical body cavity searches of visitors who are under 18 years of age unless the department has probable cause and obtains a warrant to search. It adds that, if there is probable cause that the minor visitor is attempting to introduce contraband, unauthorized substances, or other unauthorized items into the institution, CDCR must notify the visitor and their parent or guardian in writing, and the department shall receive written consent from the visitor and their parent or guardian prior to conducting the search.

The bill states that the facility must permit all visitors who cannot clear a metal detector due to a medically implanted or prosthetic device to present written verification from a licensed health care provider describing the device and its location. The facility may not require renewal of that verification for permanent devices unless there is a material change in the device. The facility may not require visitors who use wheelchairs or assistive devices to transfer to a facility wheelchair and the facility must permit visitors to remain in their own wheelchair while the device is inspected using the least intrusive means available. The facility is prohibited from punishing failure to present documentation under this provision with permanent suspension of visitation, but the facility may require alternative screening measures or a noncontact visit for that day.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The Senate Appropriations Committee writes:

Costs, possibly in the millions of dollars annually, for staffing for expanded visiting hours, processing visitation re-applications, and managing the revised search process, as required by this bill. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) also anticipates possible one-time

costs for infrastructure improvements for some family visiting facilities. Additional significant, ongoing costs to CDCR to handle legal challenges arising from denial of visitation (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

Essie Justice Group (source)
Access Reproductive Justice
ACLU California Action
All of Us or None
All of US or None Orange County
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Anti Police-terror Project
CA Legislative Women's Caucus
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Public Defenders Association
Californians for Safety and Justice
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Community Coalition
Courage California
Crop Organization; the
Defy Ventures
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Empowering Women Impacted by Incarceration
F.i.a.t.m. Group INC.
Fair Chance Project
Families Inspiring Reentry & Reunification 4 Everyone
Felony Murder Elimination Project
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
GLIDE
Grace Institute - End Child Poverty in CA
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
Milpa Collective
Parenting for Liberation
Peace and Justice Law Center
Pillars of the Community
Prison Policy Initiative

Restore Oakland, INC.
Restoring Hope California
Rubicon Programs
San Francisco Public Defender
San Quentin Skunkworks
Silicon Valley De-bug
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Smart Justice California
Starting Over
The Change Parallel Project
The Collective for Liberatory Lawyering
The Place4Grace
The W. Haywood Burns Institute
Transgender, Gendervariant, Intersex Justice Project
UnCommon Law
Vera Institute of Justice
We Got Us Now

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-16, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Chen, Flora, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /916-651-4118
8/24/26 13:35:32

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2437
Author: Chen (R)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 8/10/26 (Consent)
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/13/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Impounded vehicles

SOURCE: California Association of Licensed Repossessors

DIGEST: This bill requires an impound agency to accept a debit card as a form of payment and prohibits them from requiring the presentation of any documents other than those listed in statute to release a vehicle.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 (1) incorporate amendments to Section 14602.6 of the Vehicle Code that are proposed by AB 1830 (Petrie-Norris, 2026) making minor language changes to the existing statute; (2) incorporate the updated language regarding debit cards from AB 2437 into the new version of section 14602.6 proposed by AB 1830, to take effect in 2031; and (3) make some technical changes to conform language throughout the rest of the bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes that a peace officer may seize a vehicle when they determine that:

   a) The driver is driving without a license, on a suspended or revoked license, or driving without an Ignition Interlock Device (IID), when such a device is required (Vehicle Code [VEH]§14602.6);

   b) The driver attempts to flee from a peace officer, engages in reckless driving, as defined, or participates in an exhibition of speed (VEH §14602.7);

   c) The driver is under the influence of alcohol (VEH §14602.8);

   d) The vehicle is operating as an unlicensed vehicle for hire (VEH §21100.4);

   e) The vehicle is illegally parked or abandoned, as defined (VEH §22651);

   f) The vehicle is illegally parked or abandoned on private property (VEH §22658);

   g) The vehicle is used during the commission of illegal dumping or prostitution, as defined (VEH §22659.5); or,

   h) The vehicle is being used as part of a nonexempt unlicensed operation to repossess collateral. (VEH §23118)

2) Requires, depending on the reason for which the vehicle was impounded, the legal owner or legal owner's agent to provide the following documents to an impound agency to retrieve the vehicle: (VEH §§14602.6, 14602.7, 14602.7, 21100.4, 22658, 22269.5, 23118)

   a) The assignment or repossession order;

   b) A government issued photo identification card;

   c) A release from the responsible government agency, if required;

   d) If the person is acting as an agent of the legal owner, a copy of the repossession agency license, or demonstrated proof that they are exempt for

licensure; and,

e) One of the following:

i) A certificate of repossession for the vehicle,

ii) A security agreement for the vehicle, or,

iii) A paper or electronic title for the vehicle.

3) Requires an impounding agency to accept a valid credit card or cash as a form of payment. (VEH §§14602.6, 14602.7, 14602.7, 21100.4, 22651.1, 22658, 22269.5, 23118)

This bill:

1) Prohibits an impounding agency from requiring any documents other than those already laid out in statute before releasing a vehicle, when the vehicle is seized under the authorities specified above.

2) Requires an impounding agency to accept a debit card as a valid form of payment.

3) Makes conforming changes to the code.

Comments

1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "Currently, consumers and repossessors face delays in retrieving impounded vehicles due to administrative burdens and inconsistent release procedures in code. AB 2437 seeks to lift those burdens and prevent delays by ensuring that debit cards can be utilized when retrieving a impounded vehicle from the tow yard, that only the documentation required by statute is needed for a repossessor to retrieve a vehicle from a tow yard, and streamlining vehicle codes to utilize one, consistent, release procedure that requires expired registration be current before a consumer can retrieve their vehicle from a repossession agency."

2) *Vehicle seizure and impoundment.* California law outlines various situations in which a peace officer may seize a private vehicle. Many of these situations are related to parking violations, abandoned vehicles, or vehicles that are not safe to

operate on the street. Other situations pertain to a driver committing a crime directly, such as driving under the influence of alcohol, or driving without a license, or when the vehicle is being used in the commission of a crime, such as prostitution or illegal dumping. Finally, the legal owner of a vehicle, such as a bank or vehicle dealership, may repossess a vehicle when the driver has defaulted on the terms of their lease or financing agreement.

Regardless of the reason a vehicle was seized, it is typically brought to an impound agency. These are private companies that generally partner with law enforcement to retrieve and store seized vehicles. Under California law, these agencies are required to abide by certain rules and regulations regarding their duty to notify vehicle owners of impoundments, and when they must return vehicles to their legal owners. In all instances impound agencies are generally required to obtain proof that the owner has paid off any fines or fees. Furthermore, impound agencies are authorized to charge additional fees to reimburse their costs associated with the vehicle tow, storage, and other expenses.

The law also provides certain requirements for cases where the individual retrieving the vehicle is not the regular operator, but the vehicle's legal owner. Most often this occurs when the vehicle is being leased or financed and is legally owned by a bank or dealership. In these situations, the individual must present an assignment or repossession order for the vehicle; a government issued photo ID; a release from the responsible government agency, if required; and either a certification of repossession, a security agreement, or vehicle title. In some cases, legal owners such as banks will hire licensed repossessors to retrieve the vehicles. These are private, third-party companies that contract with banks and other entities to retrieve collateral. In the case of retrieving an impounded vehicle, a licensed repossessor must also present a copy of their repossession agency license, or proof that they are exempt for licensure.

3) *Difficulties retrieving vehicles.* Both private individuals and licensed repossessors have reported difficulties in retrieving vehicles they are entitled to from impound agencies. On the individual side, this most often takes the form of impound agencies not accepting particular forms of payment. For instance, while current law requires an impound agency to accept cash or credit cards as valid forms of payment, it does not require them to accept debit cards. However, the use of debit cards is incredibly widespread, with one report finding that 85% of Americans have at least one debit card. Thus, an impound agency that does not accept debit cards may defacto make an individual unable

to pay, denying them access to their vehicle and causing them to rack up additional fees.

On the licensed repossessor side, some repossessors have reported instances of impound agencies requiring additional documents beyond those laid out in state law in order to release a vehicle. Such documents can include a copy of the original lease or financing contract, a hold harmless agreement, or certain Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) forms. According to the repossessors, this delays their ability to collect vehicles and racks up additional fees for the legal owners.

AB 2437 seeks to address these problems by requiring impound agencies to accept debit cards as a valid form of payment, and by preventing impound agencies from requiring any additional documentation other than that listed in statute before releasing a vehicle. Writing as a sponsor of the bill, the California Association of Licensed Repossessors states, "AB 2437 would clarify that debit cards must also be accepted. The bill would also ensure that no paperwork outside of the required documents be necessary for retrieving a vehicle from impound. This will ensure consumers can save money when their vehicle is repossessed from a tow yard while the reposessor searches for additional paperwork that is not required in statute."

4) *Previous attempts at similar policy.* AB 2656 (Chen, 2018) was substantially similar to this bill in that it required an impounding agency to accept a debit card for a large variety of tows and if the debit card machine was not working would have required the storage facility to call its merchant processing center to process the transaction. Furthermore, AB 2656 expanded the situations in which licensed repossessors could retrieve vehicles from impound agencies. This bill was vetoed by Governor Brown on the basis that this expansion of licensed repossessors' abilities to retrieve vehicles was unnecessary. AB 2437 does not contain this provision.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Association of Licensed Repossessors (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Berman, Bonta, Lee, Petrie-Norris, Schultz

Prepared by: Samuel Myers / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121, Isabelle LaSalle / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/24/26 13:08:59

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2439
Author: Blanca Rubio (D) and Lowenthal (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 8-1, 6/16/26
AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Padilla
NOES: Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Valladares, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/4/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Common Interest Developments: governing documents: assessments

SOURCE: Authors

DIGEST: This bill 1) prohibits a homeowner's association's (HOA) governing documents from imposing restrictions on a member's use of public streets, including parking; 2) requires an HOA to notify each member, as specified, of a change of person or entity authorized to receive payment of assessments within 60 days of the change; 3) requires an HOA to send a second notice, as specified, to any member who has missed two consecutive assessment payments, unless other conditions are met; and, 4) imposes civil liabilities, as specified, for violations of pre-lien notice requirements by the HOA board.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 further clarify the responsibilities of an HOA regarding a change in receipt authorized to receive assessment payments, including notice requirements and maintenance of records.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law, pursuant to the Davis-Stirling Act (Act):

1) Provides that regular and special assessments in an HOA, along with late charges, interest, reasonable collection costs, and attorney's fees, constitute a debt of the homeowner in an HOA at the time they are levied.

2) Authorizes HOAs to impose late charges and interest on delinquent assessments, subject to specified limits, including interest not to exceed 12% annually unless a lower rate is specified in the declaration.

3) Requires HOAs to apply homeowner debt payments first to delinquent assessments owed to the HOA, and only after those are paid in full, to fees, collection costs, attorney's fees, late charges, or interest.

4) Requires HOAs to provide a receipt to the homeowner upon request for payments made, and to include a mailing address for overnight payment of assessments in the HOA's annual policy statement.

5) Requires HOAs to follow specified notice procedures prior to recording a lien for delinquent assessments and to recommence the notice process, at the HOA's expense, if those procedures are not followed.

This bill:

1) Prohibits HOA governing documents from imposing restrictions on a member's use of public roads, including parking, except for restrictions to enforce public health and safety standards and requirements imposed by local authorities.

2) Requires an HOA, when the person or entity authorized to receive payment of assessments on behalf of the HOA changes, to notify members through individual notice within 60 days, by either:

   a) Electronic delivery for any member who has opted into that method of delivery for receiving general notices from the HOA; or,

   b) First-class mail with a certificate of mail for any member who has not opted into the electronic delivery described in a).

3) Specifies that, if a member fails to pay two consecutive assessment payments after the HOA has provided the notice described in 2), the HOA must send a second notice by certified mail with return receipt.

4) Specifies that it is the responsibility of the HOA to maintain records confirming individual notices were distributed pursuant to 2) and 3), and that, if a member requests proof of delivery, the HOA must provide it at no charge to the member. The records shall be maintained by the HOA for five years.

5) Specifies that, if an HOA fails to comply with 3) and places a lien on a separate interest, and it is the third failure to comply within a five-year period, the board shall be liable to the owner of the separate interest for:

   a) The reconveyance fee and any costs of the owner of the separate interest associated with the HOA's failure to comply; and,

   b) A civil penalty of $1,000.

Background

HOAs. HOAs are the legal governing bodies of common interest developments (CIDs). These developments cover a variety of community arrangements, including apartment complexes, housing cooperatives, condominiums, and planned unit developments. In 1986, California enacted the Davis-Stirling Act, which outlines the requirements for CID and HOA governance, including assessments and other fees, maintenance responsibilities, and elections. There are over 50,000 HOAs throughout California, covering 36.3% of the state's population. In L.A. County alone, there are over 16,500 HOAs.

Davis-Stirling Act. The Act went into effect in 1986 and is the primary state law governing CIDs and HOAs in California. The Act provides the legal framework for the creation and management of HOAs, including rules related to governance, assessments, dispute resolution, maintenance responsibilities, and member rights. The law aims to balance the authority of HOAs with the rights of individual property owners, ensuring that communities are managed efficiently and fairly. Over time, the Act has been amended to address the evolving needs of CIDs and HOAs, including increased transparency, accountability, and consumer protections. Key provisions of the Act include requirements for open meetings, financial disclosures, election procedures, and architectural review processes. The Act also provides mechanisms for resolving disputes, including internal dispute resolution and alternative dispute resolution before certain legal actions can proceed. As the majority of new housing construction in California is part of an HOA, the Act

plays a critical role in shaping the environment and governance of these communities and the tens of millions of residents who reside in them.

Comments

1) *Author's statement.* "Families living in HOAs deserve fairness, transparency, and clear communication from their HOA Board. Yet too often, residents face inconsistent rule enforcement and are left unaware of critical financial actions affecting their property. This bill addresses these issues by prohibiting HOAs from regulating parking on public streets except for public safety, requiring clear and verifiable notice of changes to payment systems, and establishing penalties when HOAs fail to comply with lien notification laws. By increasing accountability and transparency, this measure protects homeowners from unfair practices and ensures they are properly informed about decisions that impact their homes and finances."

2) *Assessing the situation.* In an HOA, the owner(s) of each separate interest are expected to pay regular assessments to the association every year, often on a monthly basis, to cover essential operating expenses and other budgeted expenses, as determined by the board. The HOA is required to communicate who is responsible for collecting those payments—whether that's the association itself, or a designated third-party management company. Under existing law, HOAs are required to provide a mailing address for overnight payment of assessments in the annual policy statement. If the entity, or the address of the entity, responsible for collecting those payments changes, the HOA should be notifying its members. If this notification does not occur, this can expose both the HOA and the member to harm, with an association not receiving funds essential to its operation, and a member becoming delinquent on payments. Delinquency can lead to fines and a lien on an owner's property.

   These concerns bore out in an example described by the author, where an association alleges it provided notice of the assessment recipient changing, but could not prove it. The author then missed their assessment payments, resulting in a lien on their separate interest, along with fines. This bill contains provisions to address those concerns, including more stringent requirements for the delivery of notices. This bill would require individual notice of the assessment recipient changing be sent out to each owner of a separate interest via their preferred delivery method, as specified. If after the individual notice is sent out, the owner of a separate interest misses two consecutive assessment payments, then the HOA shall send out a second individual notice by certified

mail with return receipt. These measures are intended to balance improving transparency and keeping delivery costs incurred by the HOA reasonable.

3) *Consequences for consequential actions.* Under existing law, an HOA is required to recommence the notice process, prior to recording a lien on a separate interest, if the HOA does not follow the requirements of the article. As noted above in Comment 2, however, an owner may not be aware of the lien. As such, this bill seeks to impose civil liabilities on any HOA board that violates pre-lien notice requirements, as specified, three or more times within a five-year period. It would do so by requiring a board to pay any reconveyance fee, owner fees, and a civil fine of $1,000 to any affected separate interest owner. Historically, HOAs have difficulty recruiting members to serve on the board. If a board/board member is now required to pay fines and face civil liabilities, that could worsen such recruitment efforts and affect the ability of an HOA to function. Further, this could potentially lead to complicated legal battles between an HOA board member and an HOA member. What happens if there is a dispute over whether the board member was acting in their official duties and should not be held personally liable; or whether every board member must now pay the fines versus just one, and how those fees might be split? The committee may wish to consider whether there are other ways to ensure greater accountability without the potential for these unintended consequences.

4) *Members' use of public roads.* A minor provision of this bill clarifies that an HOA may not impose restrictions on a member's use of public roads, including parking, except for specified health and safety reasons. This arises out of a situation where the author was told she could not park on a public road, while visitors faced no restrictions for their parking on the same road. This would not change an HOA's ability to regulate the use of roads managed by the association, including parking restrictions on such. Rather, this would ensure that HOAs are not exceeding their authority and regulating roads they do not have jurisdiction over, even if they are neighboring the community.

5) *Double-referral.* This bill was also heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 23, 2026, where it received a vote of 10-0.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1238 (Wahab, 2026) — would provide that a person or entity that facilitates specified activities, including reviewing association operating accounts, owes a duty of care that is prudent and provides the highest good faith effort to the association and its members. *This bill is pending on the Assembly Floor.*

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Association of Community Managers
CAI-CLAC

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Those writing in opposition expressed concerns about the bill's provisions subjecting HOA Boards to civil liability, including a set of fines, for specified violations. They argue that this could depress willingness to serve on the board and stifle HOA operations.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Gallagher, Hart

Prepared by: Ryan Hardmeyer / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 11:26:52

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2440
Author: Muratsuchi (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Arts and Music in Schools—Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act: allowable uses: pooled funding: certifications

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (Proposition 28) by authorizing local educational agencies (LEAs) to pool allocated funds across schoolsites, establishing a statutory methodology for demonstrating compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement, expanding reporting, certification, and transparency requirements, and revising the definition of arts education programs and allowable expenditures.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 clarify that newly available resources are added to an LEA's existing funding calculation only to the extent those resources are spent on arts education programs. The amendments also require the annual governing board- or body-approved Proposition 28 report to be submitted and posted by September 30 in a manner determined by the California Department of Education (CDE) and, beginning in 2027-28, require LEAs to certify that all aspects of Proposition 28 have been properly implemented at each schoolsite.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the AMS Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (Proposition 28), which provides ongoing funding to supplement arts education programs in K-12 public schools. (Education Code (EC) § 8820)

2) Continuously appropriates an amount equal to 1% of the total state and local revenues received by LEAs in the preceding fiscal year that are included in the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee calculation for allocation pursuant to the AMS Act. (EC § 8820)

3) Requires AMS Act funds to be allocated by the CDE to LEAs and subsequently distributed to schoolsites based on a statutory formula. (EC § 8820)

4) Requires the principal or program director of each schoolsite to develop an expenditure plan for AMS Act funds. (EC § 8820)

5) Requires LEAs to annually certify that AMS Act funds are used to supplement, and not supplant, existing funding for arts education programs. (EC § 8820)

6) Requires LEAs with more than 500 pupils to expend at least 80% of AMS Act funds on certificated or classified employees providing arts education instruction, unless waived by CDE. (EC § 8820)

7) Requires annual audits to determine whether AMS Act funds were expended in accordance with statutory requirements. (EC § 8820; EC § 41020)

8) Requires the State Board of Education to adopt content standards in visual and performing arts. (EC § 60605.1)

This bill:

1) Authorizes LEAs to pool Proposition 28 funds across schoolsites, provided the LEA:

   a) Complies with all applicable requirements of the Act;

   b) Ensures expenditures for each schoolsite remain proportional to that school's allocation; and

   c) Complies with expenditure plans adopted for participating schoolsites.

2) Revises annual supplement-not-supplant certifications by requiring LEAs to calculate "existing funds available for arts education programs" and "current-year expenditures for arts education programs" using a specified methodology.

3) Requires LEAs, when calculating existing funds available for arts education programs, to:

   a) Begin with prior-year arts education expenditures;

   b) Exclude Proposition 28 expenditures;

   c) Exclude expenditures from resources that are no longer available in the current year;

   d) Include newly available resources that are spent on arts education programs, excluding Proposition 28 funds; and

   e) Account for specified personnel-related cost savings.

4) Specifies that resources no longer available in the current year may include expired, reduced, discontinued, exhausted, or one-time private contributions, parent fundraising revenues, and federal or state funding sources.

5) Deems an LEA to be in compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement if current-year arts education expenditures, excluding Proposition 28 funds, equal or exceed the calculated amount of existing funds available for arts education programs.

6) Expands the definition of an "arts education program" to include curriculum, instructional materials, and professional development.

7) Requires arts education programs funded pursuant to Proposition 28 to be consistent with specified state arts standards, frameworks, and preschool learning foundations, as applicable.

8) Requires the annual governing board- or body-approved Proposition 28 report to be submitted and posted on or before September 30, in a manner determined by CDE.

9) Requires each schoolsite or preschool to post its Proposition 28 expenditure plan and information regarding granted waivers on its internet website, and authorizes an LEA to instead require this information to be posted on the LEA's internet website.

10) Requires CDE to post approved waivers on its internet website.

11) Beginning with the 2027–28 fiscal year, requires an LEA to certify that all aspects of Proposition 28 have been properly implemented at each of its schoolsites.

12) Defines "existing funding" for purposes of the Act as revenue available in the current year.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "For too long, access to arts education has been inequitable, leaving many students without the benefits of a well-rounded curriculum. Proposition 28 marked a significant step forward by establishing a dedicated funding stream for arts and music education in schools. However, as local educational agencies (LEAs) have begun implementing the measure, key areas of the law have proven unclear.

"Specifically, additional clarity is needed regarding whether smaller LEAs may pool funds and how to comply with the 'supplement, not supplant' requirement. AB 2440 makes commonsense clarifications to Proposition 28 by authorizing LEAs to pool resources and codifying clear rules for maintaining baseline funding levels. These changes build on existing guidance from the California Department of Education and help ensure that the promise of Proposition 28 is implemented consistently and reaches students across the state."

Proposition 28 represented a major new state investment in arts education. Proposition 28, approved by voters in 2022, created an ongoing funding stream dedicated to expanding arts education opportunities in California public schools. The measure directs approximately 1% of annual Proposition 98 funding levels, roughly $1 billion per year, to support arts education programs at schoolsites throughout the state. In addition to creating a substantial new funding source, Proposition 28 included numerous accountability provisions intended to ensure that funds expand access to arts education rather than replace existing local investments.

Early implementation has revealed uncertainty regarding allowable expenditures and compliance requirements. As LEAs have begun implementing Proposition 28, questions have arisen regarding how certain provisions of the initiative should be interpreted and administered. In particular, uncertainty has existed regarding whether schoolsites may combine or pool allocations to support shared staffing arrangements and how LEAs should demonstrate compliance with the initiative's

supplement-not-supplant requirements. Because Proposition 28 includes significant fiscal penalties for noncompliance, many LEAs have sought additional guidance before committing funds. This bill largely seeks to codify implementation practices, establish clearer compliance standards, and expand certain reporting and transparency requirements in order to provide greater certainty regarding how the initiative's requirements should be applied.

The supplement-not-supplant requirement has become a central implementation challenge. One of the most significant accountability provisions in Proposition 28 requires LEAs to use the funds to supplement, rather than supplant, existing arts education spending. While the initiative established that requirement, it did not specify how LEAs should determine whether they have met it. Questions may arise when prior-year arts programs were supported by one-time grants, private donations, local fundraising efforts, or other funding sources that are no longer available. This bill establishes a methodology for calculating an LEA's baseline arts education spending and specifies which funding sources should be excluded from that calculation. By establishing a statutory framework for compliance, including specifying how LEAs should treat expired grants, fundraising revenues, discontinued funding sources, and certain personnel-related savings, the bill seeks to provide greater consistency and predictability for LEAs administering Proposition 28 funds.

Recent litigation underscores the importance of clear statutory guidance. The proper interpretation of Proposition 28's supplement-not-supplant requirement is currently the subject of ongoing litigation involving Los Angeles Unified School District. Although the courts ultimately will determine the merits of those claims, the dispute illustrates the challenges LEAs face when attempting to interpret broadly worded accountability provisions that lack detailed statutory direction. This bill represents a legislative effort to establish clearer statutory standards for demonstrating compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement and may reduce uncertainty for LEAs seeking to expand arts education programs while remaining compliant with Proposition 28.

Pooling authority may improve the practical use of Proposition 28 funds. Many schoolsites receive Proposition 28 allocations that are insufficient on their own to support a full-time arts educator or specialized arts program. At the same time, schools continue to face staffing shortages in a number of instructional areas, including arts education. By expressly authorizing LEAs to pool funds across schoolsites while maintaining existing site allocation and accountability requirements, the bill may provide greater flexibility for LEAs to share personnel and resources among multiple schools. This approach may be particularly

beneficial for smaller schools and districts seeking to maximize the impact of their Proposition 28 allocations.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates ongoing General Fund costs of $581,000 and 3.2 positions to implement the bill's requirements.

- The bill's changes to the AMS program would not result in additional costs and could possibly reduce workload for LEAs by revising various compliance requirements for the program.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Alameda County Office of Education
California Arts Advocates
California County Superintendents
California Music Educators Association
California State PTA
California Teachers Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105

8/24/26 12:04:10

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2467
Author: Committee on Education
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE MILITARY & VETERANS COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Archuleta, McNerney, Menjivar, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/7/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Elementary and secondary education: omnibus

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill, an urgency measure, a K-12 omnibus bill, makes numerous non-controversial revisions to a number of provisions related to education throughout statute.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 delay the transitional kindergarten multilingual learner screening timeline by one year, including field testing and statewide screening, and extend the availability of the existing $10 million appropriation through June 30, 2029. The amendments also allow a pupil to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish for the State Seal of Biliteracy by achieving Level 3 on the high school California Spanish Assessment.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "children of military families" as a school-aged child or children, enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the household of an active duty member. This is the same definition used in current law for purposes of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact). (Education Code (EC) § 49701)

2) States that a pupil complies with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district, if the pupil is a pupil whose parent is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order. Requires that a parent provide proof of residence in the school district within ten days after the published arrival date provided on official documentation, and authorizes parents to use any of the following addresses as proof of residence:

   a) A temporary on-base billeting facility.

   b) A purchased or leased home or apartment.

   c) Federal government or public-private venture off-base military housing. (EC § 48204.3)

3) Ratifies the Compact, which has the purpose of removing barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families due to frequent moves and deployment of their parents and which includes, among other provisions:

   a) Requires a receiving state to make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing Section 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the student with equal access to education, and states that this does not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

   b) Requires, in the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the sending state to prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as determined by the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to the extent feasible. Requires, upon receipt of the unofficial education records by a school in the receiving state, that the school enroll and appropriately

place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records, pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible. (EC § 49700, 49700.5, and 49701)

4) Prohibits a school district of residence from prohibiting the transfer of a student who is a child of an active duty military parent to a school district of proposed enrollment if the school district of proposed enrollment approves the application for transfer. (EC § 46600)

5) Requires, notwithstanding any other law, a local educational agency (LEA) to accept full or partial credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by a pupil who is a child of a military family while attending another public school. (EC § 51225.2)

6) Prohibits an LEA from requiring a pupil who is a child of a military family from being required to retake a course if the student has satisfactorily completed the entire course in another school. (EC § 51225.2)

7) Requires an LEA serving a pupil who is a child of a military family to allow the pupil to remain in their school of origin, regardless of any change of residence of the military family during that school year for the duration of the pupil's status as a child of a military family, and requires for a pupil who is a child of a military family to matriculate with their peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns of school districts. (EC § 48204.6)

8) Requires a candidate for a credential—before admission to any professional preparation program approved by the CTC, or participation in a field experience program as specified—to obtain a certificate of clearance from the CTC to be issued when the CTC has verified the candidate's personal identification and health status. Requires the fee for the certificate of clearance to not exceed half of the regular fee for a credential and for the fee for the certificate of clearance be deducted from the fee for the initial credential applied for by the certificate holder. (EC § 44320)

This bill, an urgency measure:

1) Expands the addresses that a parent on active military duty may use for purposes of establishing residency for their child to attend a school district, and clarifies the types of documentation to be used to provide proof of residence.

2) Requires a candidate—before admission to any professional preparation program approved by the CTC for a multiple subject credential, single subject credential, PK-3 early childhood education specialist instruction credential, or education specialist credential—to provide verification to the professional preparation program that the candidate either a) holds a valid permit or credential previously issued by the CTC or b) has applied for a certificate of clearance from the CTC that would be issued when the CTC has verified the candidate's personal identification and health status.

3) Requires a candidate that does not hold a valid permit or credential previously issued by the CTC to have obtained a certificate of clearance before beginning student teaching, clinic practice, or participation in a field experience program as specified.

4) Requires a professional preparation program approved by the CTC to issue specified credentials to submit, and annually update, candidate profile information to the CTC for each enrolled credential candidate within 30 days of the candidate beginning the program and to indicate to the CTC a candidate's program completion within 30 days of the candidate completing all credential requirements.

5) Requires that the specified candidate profile information include, but not be limited to, the candidate's credential program, type of credential being sought, and preparation pathway, including residency, student teaching, internship, or other preparation pathway, as determined by the CTC.

6) Delay the transitional kindergarten multilingual learner screening timeline by one year, including field testing and statewide screening, and extend the availability of the existing $10 million appropriation through June 30, 2029.

7) Allow a pupil to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish for the State Seal of Biliteracy by achieving Level 3 on the high school California Spanish Assessment.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "AB 2467 is a committee bill to address minor and technical issues within the Education Code. The current language relates to two key issues. Firstly, the bill addresses challenges in enrolling children of military families in school, strengthening local implementation of Advance Enrollment by making technical changes to existing law, and removing barriers

and clarifying requirements for school districts. It reinforces California's commitment to being a welcoming state for military families and ensures a stable educational environment for their children. Secondly, the bill ensures that candidates seeking a teaching credential obtain a valid background check upon their entry into the program and that the CTC has current information on all candidates seeking a teaching credential to better inform decisions on addressing teacher pipeline issues."

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The state ratified the Compact in 2009, and the purpose of this Compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. This includes facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or due to variations in entrance and age requirements. All 50 states and the District of Columbia participate in the Compact that provides a uniform policy platform for resolving the challenges experienced by military children, according to the U.S. Department of War.

AB 343 (Saldana, Chapter 237, Statutes of 2009) ratified the Compact for the state and required the California Department of Education (CDE) to submit a report that examined the operation of the Compact in the state. According to CDE, "The report finds that California's membership in the Compact has substantially aided both school districts and military families by alleviating many of the educational difficulties military children encounter in their frequent moves from a school in one state to a school in another state. [However,] the report also finds discrepancies in implementation of the Compact from school district to school district. The report suggests that California undertake a more comprehensive effort to ensure that school district personnel and military families are maximally familiar with the provisions of the Compact so that Compact provisions are applied consistently. This would provide a more positive educational experience to children of military families when they transition between different schools."

"Advance Enrollment" for military families. SB 1455 (Block, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2016) enacted an "Advance Enrollment" law in 2016, which allows military families to enroll their children as pupils for a school district prior to entering the state, so long as the parent on active military duty is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation. This bill builds upon this provision by expanding the addresses that a parent may use to provide proof of residence in the school district and by clarifying the documentation that may be used by parents to provide proof of residence.

According to the Defense Manpower Data Center, which serves under the Office of the Secretary of Defense, there are nearly 164,000 active duty military personnel assigned for duty in California as of March 2026, which is the most in the country, and as of August 2024, there were 53,607 military-connected students of active duty parents in California. These students are affiliated with 30 different military installations throughout the state, with the largest concentration in San Diego County.

Recent investments in teacher preparation. Recent budget acts have provided one-time funding to address teacher staffing shortages by removing barriers to teaching for qualified teacher candidates and ensuring that current teachers receive the training they need to succeed. Specifically, the 2025 Budget Act provided $300 million in one-time funding to establish the Student Teacher Stipend Program, which will provide $10,000 grants to teacher candidates completing the required student teaching hours beginning in the 2026-27 school year, and available through the 2028-29 school year.

Certificate of clearance and the California Statewide Educator Identifier (SEID). A certificate of clearance is a document issued by CTC to an individual who has completed the CTC's fingerprint character and identification process, whose moral and professional fitness has been shown to meet the standards as established by law. A certificate of clearance is not the same as a clear teaching or services credential, and it does not authorize the holder to provide any instruction or services in schools. Its sole purpose is to provide verification that the holder has completed a professional fitness review.

Generally, fingerprint clearance through the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation is required from every applicant prior to the CTC's issuance of any credential, permit, certificate, or waiver. This bill requires teacher candidates to either have a valid permit or credential issued by the CTC or to obtain a certificate of clearance from the CTC before beginning student teaching, clinic practice, or participation in a field experience program.

Candidates who receive a certificate of clearance are issued a SEID by the CTC. The SEID is a unique statewide identification number to be used by education agencies when reporting to CDE, and it is a 10-digit, randomly generated, non-personally identifiable number.

According to CTC, there are multiple benefits from requiring teacher candidates who don't have a valid permit or credential to obtain a certificate of clearance before beginning student teaching, clinic practice, or participation in a field experience program, including:

a) Given recent budget investments for student teacher stipends, requiring candidates to be issued a SEID will help with tracking and evaluating the impact of investments in teacher preparation to help better inform policy decisions. Starting July 1, 2026, CTC will be able to award stipends through the Student Teacher Stipend Program.

b) Requiring candidates to be issued a SEID will help ensure that a candidate receives a student teacher stipend. Unless a student has a SEID, CTC is currently unable to know what program a candidate is enrolled in and if they are receiving a student teacher stipend, and CTC views this change as critical for the implementation of the student teacher stipend program.

c) A candidate obtaining a certificate of clearance must undergo a fingerprint clearance. To the extent that the process reveals something in a candidate's background that could preclude them from teaching, this provides a layer of security for students, and it also lets the candidate know that there may potentially be additional steps for that candidate before moving forward as a teacher.

Urgency measure. The author indicates that an urgency measure is necessary (a) for military families who are being impacted by current laws on establishing residency for their child to attend a school district and (b) for CTC to track teacher candidates from their earliest entry into the field to inform the implementation of the student teacher stipends investment and to better inform policy decisions relating to the teacher pipeline.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

American Legion-Department of California
AMVETS-Department of California
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
California State Commanders Veterans Council
California State PTA
Military Officers Association of America-California Council of Chapters

Military Services in California
Office of the Assistant Secretary of War
San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools
Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/7/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Gallagher, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/24/26 12:17:55

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2469
Author: Papan (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Allen, Laird, Stern
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Grove

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Choi, Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 4-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-14, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Data centers: water use disclosures

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill imposes requirements on cities and counties to meet before they can issue permits to proposed data center projects.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires a water supplier to prepare a water supply assessment for residential, commercial, or industrial projects that must undergo review under the

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will use more than a specified amount of water.

2) Allows cities and counties to make and enforce "all local, police, sanitary and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws." It is from this fundamental state constitutional power (commonly called the "police power") that cities and counties derive their authority to regulate behavior to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the public, including land use authority.

3) Requires the state to reduce urban per capita water use by 20% December 31, 2020, and requires each urban retail water supplier to establish their own target to help meet the statewide 20% reduction goal.

This bill:

1) Prohibits a city or county from approving a permit or other entitlement that would result in the construction or expansion of a data center that increases the maximum peak water use unless:

   a) The applicant assumes responsibility for the full cost of any required water conveyance, treatment or storage, or distribution infrastructure improvements necessary to serve the project, as determined by the water supplier.

   b) The applicant has provided the city or county with:

      i) A water supply assessment;

      ii) As of January 1, 2028, a water scarcity plan;

      iii) Projected water use and water efficiency measures; and

      iv) Disclosures regarding workforce needs associated with the project.

2) States this bill should not be construed to require a city or county to approve any permit request from a data center solely because the applicant has complied with the bill's provisions.

Background

Data centers. Data centers are facilities that support information technology servers, digital storage equipment, and network infrastructure for large-scale data processing and data storage. Increasing demand for data creation, processing, and

storage from existing and emerging technologies, such as online platforms/social media, video streaming, smart and connected infrastructure, autonomous vehicles, and artificial intelligence has led to exponential growth in data center workloads.

Cooling technology and water demand. Data centers can have substantial and sometimes irregular demands for cooling water. All computer chips produce heat as waste energy from the electricity flowing through them. While this heat is minimal in the context of a personal computer, data centers made up of thousands of servers produce an immense amount of heat that needs to be removed from the facility to maintain safety and performance. To manage this heat, data centers use a variety of cooling technologies, including:

- Air-based cooling.
- Chilled water systems
- Evaporative cooling systems.
- Liquid cooling.
- Economization technologies.

Many data centers combine several technologies and the blend of possible technologies introduces tradeoffs between electricity and water use (and between onsite and offsite water use).

Implications for water infrastructure. Data centers – like all businesses, residential customers, and other water users – need a reliable water supply. Absent reliable information about expected usage, water suppliers must make infrastructure decisions based on estimates and projections that may or may not come true, meaning they could wind up under- or over-building water supply systems.

Improving planning and coordination. Better data about water use, whether during the water supply assessment process or based on research data from across the sector, would help local water agencies better plan to meet actual needs. Local water utilities could work with data centers to understand the times of highest demand and collaborate on strategies to deliver water supply reliability.

The risk of stranded or overbuilt assets can be mitigated by requiring new large customers to pay for necessary water infrastructure upgrades as part of the connection process, potentially extending beyond traditional connection fees to include upgrades to mains, pumping stations, and other needed infrastructure.

CII water use. A 2022 Department of Water Resources (DWR) study on commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) water use recommended performance measures to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to

improve water use efficiency in the CII sector, one of which was to require urban retail water suppliers to classify their CII users by one of 19 user types (e.g., manufacturing/industrial, technology/science, etc.). The SWRCB incorporated this recommendation into regulations, requiring urban retail water suppliers to classify CII users into one of 22 categories by June 30, 2027.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "California's finite water supplies are under growing stress from climate change, prolonged drought, and the expansion of large consumptive water users. While the Legislature has long recognized the importance of coordinating land use decisions with available water supplies, the rapid growth of data centers has exposed gaps in existing law. Data centers represent a new kind of development that can impose significant, highly concentrated water demands on local systems.

"This gap is particularly important because data centers operate continuously and can drive substantial peak-day demand, often requiring new treatment, storage, or distribution infrastructure. Without timely and standardized information during the entitlement process, municipalities and water retailers may lack clear visibility into a project's water needs and the leverage to ensure that adequate supplies, infrastructure capacity, and conservation measures are in place before service commitments are made

"AB 2469 directly addresses this problem. The bill requires meaningful water planning before local approval and directs state agencies to better identify and manage large consumptive water users. In doing so, AB 2469 gives local governments and water suppliers the information they need to evaluate data center water demand before irreversible siting and infrastructure decisions are made."

Seeing the whole field – for one sector. This bill requires data centers to submit certain information to a city or county before the city or county can issue an entitlement for the project. This information includes a water supply assessment, a water scarcity plan, and projected water use and water efficiency plan – accompanied by certain disclosures regarding workforce needs of the project.

However, this bill doesn't apply these same requirements to other CII sectors or users with similar water demands. So, while this bill will provide cities, counties, and water suppliers with more information about projected water demand, they still will not have a complete picture since this measure only applies to a slice of the state's largest water users.

Similarly, this bill's requirement to create a "water scarcity plan" detailing how water users will reduce their usage if asked or required to only applies to data centers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee's analysis, the bill will impose minor costs on DWR and the SWRCB.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/6/26)

7th Generation Advisors
California Coastal Protection Network
California Coastkeeper Alliance
California Environmental Voters
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Public Environmental Oversight
Clean Water Action
Cleanearth4kids.org
Community Alliance With Family Farmers
Fix the World Consulting, LLC
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Planning and Conservation League
Resource Renewal Institute
Sierra Club California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/6/26)

Bay Area Council
Building Owners and Managers Association of California
CalAsian Chamber of Commerce
California African American Chamber of Commerce
California Broadband & Video Association
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
California State Association of Counties
Data Center Coalition
League of California Cities
NAIOP California
Rural County Representatives of California
Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)

TechCA
TechNet

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-14, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Patterson, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Davies, Gallagher, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Evan Goldberg / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/17/26 10:03:08

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2478
Author: Schultz (D) and Solache (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez
NO VOTE RECORDED: Weber Pierson

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Kinship family approval

SOURCE: Alliance for Children's Rights,
Children's Law Center of California
Children's Legal Services of San Diego
County Welfare Directors Association of California

DIGEST: This bill establishes a Kinship Family Approval process in the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as a streamlined pathway for relatives, nonrelative extended family members (NREFMs), and extended family members of Indian children to become approved foster care providers.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 avoid double jointing amendments with SB 1017, AB 2746, and SB 1051 of the current legislative year.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 make a number of technical and clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes a state and local system of child welfare services, including foster care, for children who have been adjudged by the court to be at risk of abuse and neglect or have been abused or neglected, as specified. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] 202)

2) Requires preferential consideration be given to a request by a relative to have the child placed with the relative if the child has been removed from the physical custody of the child's parent(s). (WIC 361.3(a))

3) Requires, when placing a child in the home of a relative, an extended family member, or NREFM on a temporary basis, the court to consider the recommendations of the social worker based on the assessment required by current law, including the results of a criminal records check and prior child abuse allegations, if any, before ordering that the child be placed with a relative or NREFM. (WIC 319(h)(3))

4) Requires CDSS to adopt, no later than January 1, 2027, a simplified approval process for relative caregivers consistent with the definition of foster family homes for the purposes of federal Title IV-E eligibility. Requires the simplified approval process for relative and kinship caregivers to be implemented only if and to the extent that federal financial participation is available and after necessary federal approval of state plan amendments has been obtained. (WIC 16519.3(a))

5) Defines "nonrelative extended family member" to mean an adult caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child, as described. (WIC 11400(n))

This bill:

1) Requires CDSS, on or before July 1, 2028, to adopt a Kinship Family Approval process to approve a relative, NREFM, or extended family member of an Indian child to be a kinship family, defined as an individual or family who has successfully met the home environment assessment and family engagement standards necessary for providing care for a child placed by a county child welfare department or a probation department (county) by court order or

voluntarily placed by a parent or legal guardian.

2) Requires counties to ensure that relatives, NREFMs, and extended family members of an Indian child are provided information regarding available approval processes and the option to choose between the Kinship Family Approval process, the Resource Family Approval process, and, in the case of an Indian child, a tribally approved home.

3) Makes confidential certain personal identifying information, written evaluation reports, and court proceedings relating to kinship families, except as specified, and requires the application form signed by a kinship family applicant to include a declaration that the information submitted is true, correct, and contains no material omissions of fact to the best knowledge and belief of the applicant.

4) Adds kinship families, as defined, to the list of persons and entities entitled to access pupil records, including records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, online communications on school-established platforms, and individualized education programs, without written parental consent or judicial order.

5) Expands the scope of an existing misdemeanor to include any person who willfully and knowingly, with intent to deceive, makes a false statement or fails to disclose a material fact in a Kinship Family Approval application.

6) Expands the court's authority to place a child after an order of removal, or on a temporary or emergency basis, in the home of a NREFM or an extended family member, in addition to a relative, as under existing law, regardless of the status of any criminal record exemption, Kinship Family Approval, or Resource Family Approval, if the court finds the placement does not pose a risk to the health and safety of the child.

7) Recasts and revises existing reporting and recommendation provisions enacted by AB 2830 (Rivas, Chapter 417, Statutes of 2024) with the new Kinship Family Approval statutory framework.

8) Makes conforming changes across various codes to make provisions currently applicable to resource families also applicable to kinship families and deletes obsolete provisions.

9) Conditions implementation on the continued availability of Title IV-E federal financial participation.

10) Adds double jointing language with SB 1017, AB 2764, and SB 1051 to avoid chaptering out issues.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author, "While California has officially embraced a 'kin-first' culture that prioritizes placing children with family or trusted adults in a child's life, the state currently utilizes a one-size-fits-all foster care approval process that can create unnecessary administrative burdens for a child's kin. Research has consistently and resoundingly shown that children experience a wide range of improved outcomes when placed with familiar caregivers, including greater placement and educational stability, higher likelihood of reuniting with siblings, and improved mental and behavioral health. California's current system, the Resource Family Approval process, was largely designed for licensed foster parents and does not fully reflect the needs of relatives and other trusted adults who step forward during a family crisis. Administrative burdens and irrelevant requirements can create undue delays for placing a child in the safest and most supportive setting possible. To address these unacceptable delays and promote the resounding benefits of kinship care, the legislature enacted AB 2830 (Rivas) to direct the California Department of Social Services to develop policy improvements to strengthen kinship placement pathways.

"AB 2478 follows through on these improvements by creating the Kinship Family Approval pathway, a streamlined approval framework for kin caregivers. This pathway is designed specifically to recognize that caregivers with pre-existing meaningful relationships with a child should not face unnecessary regulatory barriers designed for traditional foster homes. This legislation additionally clarifies emergency placement rules, allows agencies to access Title IV-E federal funding that encourages the creation of separate kinship approval pathways, and extends the eligibility of very limited criminal record exemptions to a wider range of kin so that children can be placed quickly with safe caregivers who are familiar to them. By reducing administrative delays and strengthening family-first placement policies, AB 2478 will maximize kin placements while remaining unwavering in safeguards that secure the safety and stability of a caregiver's home. The Kinship Family Approval pathway will ensure children are more efficiently given a sense of stability, consistency, and permanency with a caregiver that will keep them connected to their communities and culture."

Child Welfare System (CWS) The CWS is an essential component of the state's safety net. Social workers in each county who receive reports of abuse or neglect, investigate and resolve those reports. When a case is substantiated, a family is either provided with services to ensure a child's well-being and avoid court involvement, or a child is removed and placed into foster care. In 2025, the state's child welfare agencies received 398,861 reports of abuse or neglect. Of these, 45,856 reports contained substantiated allegations, and 17,886 children were removed from their homes and placed into foster care via the CWS.

Resource Family Approval Program The Resource Family Approval process approves Resource Families to provide placement for children and youth who fall under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or otherwise in the care of a county child welfare agency. A Resource Family can be an individual, couple or family who wants to provide care to related or unrelated children. This program also allows for emergency placements with relatives and NREFM. CDSS describes Resource Family Approval as a family-friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that combines elements of the foster parent licensing, relative approval, and approvals for adoption and guardianship processes. The Resource Family Approval includes a comprehensive family evaluation assessment, home environment check, and training for all families, including relatives. It also allows for a seamless transition to permanence.

The original intention of the Resource Family Approval process was to streamline foster parent approval and adoption approval requirements to facilitate an easy transition for caregivers from foster placement to adoption. The combination of these two processes results in a Resource Family Approval process that can be lengthy and involved – with requirements such as a home health and safety assessment, background check, and health questionnaire. While California has taken steps to streamline this process to address barriers and delays, there is not currently a single more streamlined process for relatives and kin.

On September 28, 2023, the federal Administration for Children and Families published a final rule regarding licensing and approval standards for kinship placements. The rule permits Title IV-E agencies to claim Title IV-E federal financial participation on behalf of a child who is placed in a relative or kinship licensed or approved foster family home, when the agency uses different licensing or approval standards for relative or kinship foster family homes and non-relative or non-kinship foster family homes. This bill creates a simplified approval process for relative placement, consistent with federal regulations.

Placement with Relatives State and federal law include a preference to place children in out-of-home care with relatives. For example, Welfare and Institutions Code Section 361.3 states that preferential consideration must be given to a request by a relative of the child for placement of the child with the relative. The child's social worker must always determine whether such a placement is appropriate by considering a variety of factors, as specified, including the ability of the relative to provide a safe, secure, and stable environment for the child, but preference is provided for a relative or NREFM placement.

Numerous national studies have documented the poor outcomes of children and youth who are removed from their homes and placed into the child welfare system. Children involved with the CWS system have increased rates of chronic health problems, developmental delays and disabilities, mental health needs, and substance abuse problems. Many youth in care have experienced traumatic events, including removal from their homes that lead to symptoms such as depression, behavior problems, hypersensitivity, and emotional difficulties. Twenty-five percent of youth who age-out of care experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder – double the rate of U.S. war veterans.[1] Studies have also demonstrated the significant benefit to children in the child welfare system that are placed with relatives rather than with strangers in foster homes or in group care. A 2008 study in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine found that children placed into kinship care had fewer behavioral problems three years after placement than children who were placed into foster care. This study also noted that a large body of research acknowledges the evidence that children in kinship care are less likely to change placements, benefiting from increased placement stability and better outcomes. Researchers also found that children placed with relatives were more likely to remain in their same neighborhood, be placed with siblings, and have consistent contact with their birth parents than other children in foster care.[2]

Streamlined System of Kinship Family Approval In 2024, AB 2380 (Rivas) was enacted and required CDSS, by January 1, 2027, to adopt a simplified approval process for relative caregivers, consistent with federal regulations, and specified that the simplified approval process be implemented only if, and to the extent that, federal financial participation is available. AB 2380 created a statutory framework and this bill seeks to enact that framework by codifying procedures for a streamlined Kinship Family Approval. This streamlined process is outlined below.

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[1] http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/files/upload-docs/report_final_April_2.pdf

[2] *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2008;162(6):550-556. doi:10.1001/archpedi.162.6.550.

What Families Can Qualify: This bill defines "kinship family" as including an individual or family that is a relative, a NREFM or an extended family member of an Indian child. This bill expands the pool of eligible caregivers beyond what AB 2830 contemplated. AB 2830 focused primarily on relatives, with an option for CDSS to expand the definition to include NREFMs, however this bill makes that expansion mandatory by requiring the Kinship Family Approval process to be available to relatives, NREFMs, and extended family members of an Indian child.

Background Checks: Under existing law, Resource Family Approval requires background checks of all adults residing in the home and these background checks are completed by the county. This process remains unchanged for Kinship Family Approval. Under existing law, Resource Family Approval uses a simplified exemption process for misdemeanors convictions in the last 3 years or felony convictions not otherwise prohibited in the last 5 years except for all non-exemptible felony convictions. The process for Kinship Family Approval is the same however, the list of non-exemptible convictions is limited to the federal non-exemptible convictions list.

Training: Under existing law, Resource Family Approval families must complete a minimum of 12 hours preapproval and a minimum of eight hours annually. For Kinship Family Approval, the 12 hours can be completed no later than 90 days following approval. This allows for flexibility when a child needs to be placed in an emergency situation and there is no time for training before placement. The current training topics required for Resource Family Approval include a broad range of issues such as the effects of trauma, accessing services, rights of a child in foster care, and cultural needs of children. For Kinship Family Approval, the training requirements include topics such as birth parent relationships and safety issues, child and adolescent development, and navigating the child welfare and probation systems.

For Kinship Family Approval a county may require a family to receive relevant specialized training for the particular needs of a child. A county may also require additional training to support the family. The training under the Kinship Family Approval system is more individually tailored to the specific child and family.

Ongoing Support: Under existing law, Resource Family Approval families are provided ongoing support as needed to complete the approval process

and families are monitored periodically and updates are completed at least biannually. These processes remain the same for Kinship Family Approval, however additional supports are also provided. This ongoing support is provided no less than quarterly to ensure that the proper services and supports are being provided to successfully care for the child or NMD. These supports can be provided through things such as the Peer Mentorship Program, Foster Family Agency, and California Kinship Navigator.

Documentation of Approval: For Resource Families, a written report is prepared regarding their approval or denial. For Kinship Family Approval a written summary is prepared which includes a summary of the family strengths and if the family is approved or denied.

The goal of this streamlined Kinship Family Approval is to make it easier for placements to be approved, and children to be placed, in settings where they are most likely to thrive.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2830 (Rivas, Chapter 417, Statutes of 2024) required CDSS to adopt a simplified approval process for relative caregivers by January 1, 2027, conditioned on federal financial participation, and required CDSS to recommend statutory changes for full implementation by September 30, 2026.

SB 354 (Skinner, Chapter 687, Statutes of 2021) adopted changes to the criminal background check process during RFA for relatives; permitted court authorization of relative placements regardless of criminal exemption or RFA status; required CDSS to report on criminal record exemptions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, CDSS estimates the following General Fund costs:

- State operations costs of $339,000 in 2026-27 and $333,000 annually thereafter.

- One-time costs of $275,000 for automation updates for CWS-CARES and $448,500 for automation costs for CalSAWS.

- Ongoing annual costs to backfill the loss of federal Title IV-E funding for Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care is $735,541 per 100 foster youth cases and $581,618 per 100 non-minor dependent cases. Due to uncertainty in caseloads, the estimate was based on a cost per 100 cases. The actual caseload may potentially be lower. These costs relate to the provisions in the bill that would create a pathway for placements that received authorization by the court but were either 1) a non-relative extended family member or extended family member of an Indian child who was denied kinship family approval or 2) a non-relative extended family member or extended family member of an Indian child who was approved for the kinship family approval process but with a federal non-exemptible conviction.

- The California Department of Justice indicates no significant fiscal impact to the department.

- Unknown costs to local agencies for administration. Proposition 30 of 2012 provides that any legislation enacted after September 30, 2012 that has an overall effect of increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for realigned services applies to local agencies only to the extent that the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. Other costs may be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Alliance for Children's Rights (Co-source)
Children's Law Center of California (Co-source)
Children's Legal Services of San Diego (Co-source)
County Welfare Directors Association of California (Co-source)
California Alliance of Caregivers
California State Association of Counties
County of Humboldt
County of Ventura
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 11:36:18

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2493
Author: Petrie-Norris (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 13-4, 6/30/26
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Stern, Wahab
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Dahle, Grove, Strickland

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 57-17, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Electrical corporations: interconnection: Public Utilities Commission: transmission development monitor.

SOURCE: American Clean Power-California
Union of Concerned Scientists

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to require specific actions to help accelerate interconnection of generating resources to electric transmission lines.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has exclusive jurisdiction over the transmission of electricity in interstate commerce and over all facilities for the transmission or sale of electricity in interstate commerce. (Federal Power Act §§§201, 205, 206 (Title 16 United States Code (USC) 824, 824d, 824e))

2) Establishes and vests the CPUC with regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article 12 of the California Constitution)

3) Establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission (CEC)) and requires the CEC to assess trends in energy consumption and analyze the social, economic, and environmental consequences of trends. (Public Resources Code §25200 *et seq.*)

4) Establishes the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) as a nonprofit public benefit corporation and requires it to ensure efficient use and reliable operation of the electrical transmission grid. (Public Utilities Code §345)

5) Requires, under the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit. Authorized CARB to include market-based compliance mechanisms to comply with the regulations. (Health and Safety Code §38500 *et seq*.)

6) Requires every electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities to annually prepare, as part of the FERC Order 890 process, and submit to the CPUC, a report identifying any electrical transmission facility, upgrade, or enhancement that is reasonably necessary to achieve the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) procurement requirements. Requires each electrical corporation that owns electrical transmission facilities to annually prepare, and submit to the CPUC, a report on any changes to previously reported in-service dates of transmission and interconnection facilities necessary to provide transmission deliverability to eligible renewable energy resources or energy storage resources that have executed interconnection agreements. (Public Utilities Code §399.13)

7) Provides that the CPUC may supervise and regulate every public utility in the state and may do all things, whether specifically designated or in addition, which are necessary and convenient in the exercise of such power and jurisdiction. (Public Utilities Code §701)

8) Requires the CPUC to report to the Legislature by November 1 of each year specified information in order to evaluate the progress of the state's electrical corporations in complying with the California RPS Program (Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3). This includes a

systemwide assessment of delays to interconnection or transmission approvals for eligible renewable energy resources or energy storage resources, based on the annual reports submitted to the CPUC by electrical corporations pursuant to Public Utilities Code §399.13. (Public Utilities Code §913.4)

This bill:

1) Requires each large electrical corporation, within 180 days following the adoption of a transmission plan by the CAISO through the transmission planning process (TPP), or a successor process, or whin 180 days following the execution of a generator interconnection agreement, that is assigned or obligated to construct a project that requires approval by the CPUC to submit to the transmission development monitor at the CPUC a project specific schedule for the project, as provided.

2) Requires the CPUC, on or before July 1, 2027, to establish a transmission development monitor within the CPUC.

3) Requires the transmission development monitor to monitor and review certain transmission- and interconnection-related facilities submitted by the large electrical corporation, the large electrical corporation's progress on completing network upgrades following approval in a generator interconnection agreement or transmission plan approved by the CAISO, the large electrical corporation's compliance with the schedule submitted to the transmission development monitor, and the large electrical corporation's compliance with any remedial actions ordered by the CPUC, as specified.

4) Requires the transmission development monitor to report to the CPUC on an annual basis, as provided, and notify the CPUC within 15 days of identifying a material deficiency, as defined.

5) Requires the CPUC, within 90 days of receiving an annual report or notification of material deficiency to issue a resolution directing the large electrical corporation to take remedial actions material deficiencies identified by the transmission development monitor, as specified.

6) Makes legislative findings and declares that Section 1 of the bill, which adds Section 769.4, to the Public Utilities Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article 1 of the

California Constitution in order to protect the confidential and market-sensitive information of an entity (electrical corporation) subject to Section 1 of this act.

Background

SB 100/SB 1020 clean energy goals. With the adoption of SB 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) and SB 1020 (Laird, Chapter 361, Statutes of 2022) statute establishes the policy of the state that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2040, 100% of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31, 2035. SB 100 increased the RPS requirement from 50% by 2030 to 60% of retail sales for each retail seller. SB 100 also required CARB, CEC, and CPUC to issue a joint report by January 1, 2021, and at least every four years, that describes technologies, forecasts, affordability, and system and local reliability. The report is required to include an evaluation of costs and benefits to customer rate impacts, as well as barriers to achieving the SB 100 policy. The first Joint Agency report was issued January 2021 and found that in order to meet the state's energy goals California will need to roughly triple its current electricity power capacity.

CAISO. The CAISO is a nonprofit public benefit corporation created by California statute as part of the effort to deregulate the electricity market in the late 1990s. The CAISO manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage bulk power system that makes up 80% of California's, and a small part of Nevada's, electric grid. CAISO is registered as both a transmission operator and balancing authority (BA) under federal reliability requirements. As with other BAs, the CAISO is regulated by federal statute and regulations with oversight by FERC and the North American Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC).

Transmission planning process. Each year, the CAISO conducts its TPP to identify potential system limitations as well as opportunities for system reinforcements that improve reliability and efficiency. The CAISO Transmission Plan provides a comprehensive evaluation of the CAISO transmission grid to address grid reliability requirements, identify upgrades needed to successfully meet California's policy goals, and explore projects that can bring economic benefits to consumers. The plan relies heavily on key inputs from state agencies in translating legislative policy into actionable policy driven inputs. The development of the transmission plan entails annual public stakeholder process that is conducted pursuant to the

CAISO's FERC-approved tariff. It includes a three-phase process that leads to annual CAISO Board of Governor approval of transmission plan and associated transmission projects.

Forecasting by CEC and supply-side inputs by CPUC. The CEC conducts demand forecast that is used to inform several planning processes, including the CAISO's TPP. The demand forecast is often a 10-year (recently 15-year) outlook for electricity and natural gas sales, consumption, and peak and hourly electricity demand. Additionally, the CPUC provides energy resource supply-side inputs, including an annual resource portfolio, to inform the transmission planning by the CAISO.

Transmission Development Forum. The Transmission Development Forum is a recent joint effort between the CAISO and the CPUC to discuss and track Participating Transmission Owners expansion and network upgrade projects and schedules. The Transmission Development Forum creates a single forum to track the status of transmission network upgrade projects that affect generators and all other transmission projects approved in the CAISO's TPP. The effort allows for increased transparency for all stakeholders about transmission projects and enhances accountability of transmission owners by having them explain schedule changes, delays, and address stakeholders' questions.

Tracking Energy Development (TED) Task Force. The TED Taskforce is also a recent joint effort of the CPUC, CEC, CAISO, and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to track new energy projects under development. According to the CPUC, the objective is to build on the success of ad hoc 2021 efforts to provide energy resource project development support, as appropriate, and identify barriers and mitigation strategies to accelerate energy project development.

CAISO 20-year Transmission Outlook. The CAISO embarked on creating a 20-Year Transmission Outlook for the electric grid, in collaboration with the CPUC and the CEC, with the goal of exploring the longer-term grid requirements and options for meeting California's GHG reduction and renewable energy objectives reliably and cost-effectively. The CAISO also intends for the expanded planning horizon to provide valuable input for resource planning processes conducted by the CPUC and CEC, and to provide a longer-term context and framing of pertinent issues in the CAISO's ongoing annual 10-Year Transmission Plan. The 2024 20-Year Transmission Outlook estimates $45 to $65 billion in transmission costs to

meet the state clean energy needs, load growth, and offshore wind generation development.

CAISO reforms of interconnection queue. The CAISO has also been instituting a number of reforms to address delays, particularly as the volume of projects entering the CAISO queue has grown significantly with the passage of federal legislation by the Biden administration to incentivize clean energy, state procurement directives, resource adequacy requirements, and clean energy targets. The CAISO has implemented a number of reforms through the Interconnection Process Enhancements to modify how projects enter and advance through the queue, including screening and prioritization criteria based on commercial readiness, system need, and project viability.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author:

> Federal clean energy tax credits worth billions of dollars to California ratepayers are on the verge of expiring, and the single greatest obstacle to capturing those savings is completion of the grid upgrades needed to connect new clean energy projects. The CPUC's own data shows that nearly two-thirds of these transmission upgrades are delayed, with some languishing for over a decade. AB 2493 creates the independent oversight and enforceable accountability mechanisms needed to break through these delays before it is too late.

Seeking legislative remedies to address delays in infrastructure build-out. The sponsors and supporters of this bill seek legislative remedies to address delays in interconnecting generating facilities to transmission and distribution grid. They note widespread delays in transmission projects, citing the CPUC's *2025 RPS Report* which found that 64% of in-development transmission projects are delayed past their original in-service dates, including Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) at 63% and Southern California Edison (SCE) at 70%, though San Diego Gas & Electric was excluded due to incomplete data. They further note the delay of 449 transmission projects with dependent generation, or storage is affecting 21.8 gigawatts of clean energy and storage capacity. While they acknowledge there has been much attention to the issue at the CPUC and CAISO, the longstanding delays threaten grid reliability, clean energy progress, and the ability to access the sunsetting federal tax credits that can reduce costs for Californians. As such, the

supporters seek legislative remedies to require auditing of the electric IOUs' progress to build-out the needed infrastructure.

Electric IOUs oppose the bill stating it singles them out while ignoring other responsible parties and conflicts with existing oversight. The electric IOUs raise concerns that the bill only focuses on their actions and no other responsible parties. They share that transmission and interconnection projects can often be delayed due to issues outside their control, including a project developer's lack of financing, lack of land rights, or component supply shortages. They also raise concerns that the approved projects in the CAISO TPP are mostly conceptual and often lack critical information that must be prepared prior to determining how (or if) to file for applicable permits. They noted there is extensive work related to engineering, costs, and contracts before the projects can begin the permitting process. They raise concerns that the strict deadlines for submitting requests will result in longer permitting timelines, not shorter.

Prior/Related Legislation

(See Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee Analysis.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, ongoing costs, possibly in the high hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (ratepayer funds), for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a transmission development monitor and otherwise implement the provisions of this bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

American Clean Power- California (Co-source)
Union of Concerned Scientists (Co-source)
Advanced Energy United
California Energy Storage Alliance
California Environmental Voters
California Wind Energy Association
Ceres, INC.
City of Berkley
City of San Diego
County of San Diego
EDF Power Solutions

ENGIE North America
Environmental Defense Fund
Fluence Energy Systems
Independent Energy Producers Association
Large-Scale Solar Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ormat
Sierra Club California
Solar Energy Industries Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to a coalition of organizations, including the co-sponsors of this bill and 14 other organizations listed above:

> …California has set an ambitious goal to decarbonize its power grid by 2045. Realizing this goal depends on our ability to connect new clean power generation quickly and affordably. …Unfortunately, the IOUs are falling behind on those upgrades, delaying the addition of new power to the grid. …AB 2493 will help stabilize electricity prices and keep California's grid reliable by requiring the large IOUs to connect new clean energy projects faster. First, AB 2493 sets a deadline for the larger IOUs to initiate permitting for major grid upgrades. Second, the bill requires an independent auditor to assess the root causes of interconnection upgrades delays and report findings to the CPUC. …An independent audit will provide the rigorous, consistent data that state regulators need to understand why projects are falling behind and what remedies will be most effective. Third, AB 2493 requires the large IOUs to develop solutions aligned with the auditor's findings, including facilities advanced equipment procurement to mitigate supply chain constraints, expanding opportunities for entities other than the large IOUs to complete certain upgrades, and implementing a prioritization framework to fast-track upgrades that affect 100 MW or more of clean energy capacity. Finally, the bill directs the CPUC to evaluate the large IOUs' progress in addressing interconnection delays in their rate requests and cost of capital applications.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to PG&E:

AB 2493 would not address the primary drivers of delays identified in numerous publications and discussed at length in the Assembly Utilities Hearing held on February 18th. This include delays related to land rights, procurement lead times, permitting timelines, and customer-driven project design changes. Instead, AB 2493 would (1) create jurisdictional conflicts and competing compliance obligations for utilities by directing corrective actions that may be inconsistent with FERC-jurisdictional requirements and CAISO planning and cost parameters; (2) duplicative existing CPUC and CAISO oversight and reporting frameworks, including the CPUC's Transmission Project Review Process under Resolution E-5252; (3) divert specialized engineering and interconnection staff away from completing studies and executing network upgrades; (4) increase costs for customers without clear, reasonable cost recovery parameters; (5) raise security concerns by requiring public posting of audit reports that could include sensitive critical infrastructure information; and (6) focus on utilities without addressing end-to-end contributors to delay across all responsible parties (utilities, manufacturers, land-owners, developers, and federal, state & local agencies).

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 57-17, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Castillo, Flora, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/21/26 16:00:48

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2513
Author: Petrie-Norris (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants

SOURCE: Irvine Ranch Conservancy

DIGEST: This bill expands the kinds of activities eligible for funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and Regional Forest Fire Capacity Program to address ecosystem specific concerns in Southern California.

Senate floor amendments of 8/21/26 prevent code conflict if AB 1699 (Rogers) and this bill are both enacted.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Establishes the WCB in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Among other things, the WCB is required to investigate, study, and determine the areas in the state that are most suitable for certain wildlife-related purposes.

2) Authorizes the WCB to make grants or loans to nonprofit organizations, local governmental agencies, federal agencies, and state agencies for various purposes in connection with fish and wildlife habitat.

3) Authorizes the Department to establish a local assistance grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education activities (Public Resources Code (PRC) §4124.5).

4) Establishes the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC) in the California Department of Conservation (DOC) to support regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop, prioritize, and implement strategies and projects that create fire adapted communities and landscapes by improving ecosystem health, community wildfire preparedness, and fire resilience.

5) Requires the Task Force to update the Action Plan every five years, and develop an implementation plan to achieve the Plan's goals (PRC § 4771).

This bill:

1) Authorizes the WCB to award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement certain regional priority strategies

2) Amends the definition of "fire prevention activities," for the purposes of the Department's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, to include:

    a) The creation of fuel breaks.

    b) Ignition prevention.

    c) Replacement of ignition-prone non-native fuels or flashy fuels with less flammable vegetation.

    d) Technologies that improve detection and assessment of new fire ignitions.

3) Defines the term "flashy fuel," for the purposes of the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, as "shrubs, grasses, and foliage, including, but not limited to, pine needles and leaves, that dry or cure rapidly, ignite easily, and spread fire quickly.

4) Defines the term "ignition prevention," for the purposes of the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, as "those lawful activities that reduce the likelihood of wildfire ignitions caused directly or indirectly by human

activity or infrastructure, including replacement or modification of ignition-prone nonnative fuels or flashy fuels with less flammable vegetation, hardening of infrastructure, including primary roadways, utility corridors, and public access points, to prevent fire ignition and spread, use of ignition-resistant materials, and community education or planning programs that reduce human-caused ignitions."

5) Defines the term "non-native fuel," for the purposes of the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program as "nonnative or invasive plant species, including grasses, shrubs, and other annual plants, and nonnative or invasive woody plant species."

6) Amends eligible activities under the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program to include vegetation modification to reduce wildfire ignition risk and ignition prevention activities.

7) Establishes a definition for the term "Director," in the context of the RFFC at the DOC.

8) Specifies the director may directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies.

9) Requires the director to collaborate with the Task Force to establish guidelines for funding regional landscape grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Action Plan.

10) Authorizes the director to provide grants for projects and programs that improve ecosystem health.

11) Authorizes moneys appropriated to the DOC for landscape-scale projects be allocated to activities that improve ecosystem health on chaparral, shrubland, grassland, and coastal sage scrub lands, including the replacement of ignition-prone nonnative fuels or flashy fuels with less flammable vegetation, and for regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies.

12) Establishes definitions for the terms used in sections 11) and 12), above:

    a) "Ecosystem" includes forest, chaparral, shrubland, grasslands, and coastal sage ecosystems and natural communities.

b) "Flashy fuels" means shrubs, grasses, and foliage, including, but not limited to, pine needles and leaves, that dry or cure rapidly, ignite easily, and spread fire quickly.

c) "Nonnative fuels" means nonnative or invasive plant species, including grasses, shrubs, and other annual plants, and nonnative or invasive woody plant species.

d) "Regional entities" has the same meaning as defined in Section 4208 of the PRC.

13) Requires the director of DOC, prior to issuing regional landscape grants, to collaborate with the Task Force to establish guidelines for funding regional landscape grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Action Plan.

14) Includes chaptering out amendments to avoid code conflicts between this bill and AB 1699 (Rogers), in case both bills are enacted.

Background

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. Established in the Public Resources Code under the DOC, RFFC supports regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop, prioritize, and implement strategies and projects that create fire adapted communities and landscapes by improving ecosystem health, community wildfire preparedness, and fire resilience. DOC provides block grants to regional entities and to eligible coordinating organizations to support the statewide implementation of the program.

Lack of Southern California nuance. According to information provided by the author's office, some RFFC entities with shovel-ready projects have run into implementation delays because their projects don't neatly fall under the state's definition of approved wildfire mitigation activities. This has been felt most acutely in non-forested areas of the state where fire risk is comparable to forested areas but wildfire mitigation projects aren't easily categorized as "fuels reduction" or "forest health." This technicality delays funding and puts people's lives and homes at risk, especially in flammable shrubland regions of the state where millions of Californians live.

Expanding access to funding for RFFC. This bill expands the definition of wildfire mitigation activities in state law to include chapparal ecosystems and expands the agencies that could distribute block grants under the RFFC program.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

- Cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount (General Fund, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF], or bond funds) for the Department of Conservation (DOC) to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies developed pursuant to the RFFC program. (See staff comments for more information on cost pressures.)
- Cost pressure of an unknown amount (General Fund, GGRF, or bond funds) for the WCB to award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies developed pursuant to the RFFC program.
- Cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount (General Fund, GGRF, or bond funds) for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to fund the additional project types made eligible under its local assistance and forest health grant programs as a result of this bill, in addition to currently eligible project types.
- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimates ongoing costs of $391,000 annually (GGRF) to review and update quantification methodologies, calculator tools, and reporting templates for fire prevention and forest health programs; update online resources and guidance documents to reflect expanded eligibility criteria; and update outreach and engagement materials and strategy; among other things.
- The State Water Board estimates ongoing costs of approximately $2 million annually (Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund [TRFRF]) to coordinate with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, WCB, DOC, and CalFire to develop guidelines for funding regional landscape grants; conduct increased inspections, oversight, and enforcement for these projects; and develop new individual or general Waste Discharge Requirements to permit these projects.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Irvine Ranch Conservancy (sponsor)
Association of California Cities - Orange County
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Association of REALTORS
California Municipal Utilities Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Los Alamitos
City of Thousand Oaks

East Bay Municipal Utility District
League of California Cities
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Orange County Transportation Authority
Orange; County of
Save the Redwoods League
Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Sempervirens Fund

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "AB 2513 addresses two critical gaps in our efforts to achieve the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. First, the bill ensures that Regional Forest and Fire Capacity grantors can distribute funds for wildfire mitigation projects in the flammable shrubland ecosystems typical of Southern California, reflecting the full range of ecosystems at risk of catastrophic wildfire across the state. Second, AB 2513 increases the pace and scale of grant distribution by authorizing the Department of Conservation and the Wildlife Conservation Board to distribute regional landscape grants to local entities."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/24/26 13:42:24

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2518
Author: Sharp-Collins (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 16-0, 6/8/26
AYES: Allen, Ochoa Bogh, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Caballero, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grove, McNerney, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Strickland, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: San Diego Gas and Electric Company: energization pilot program

SOURCE: San Diego Housing Federation

DIGEST: This bill establishes a five-year pilot program regarding timelines to energize specified customers within the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) service territory.

Senate Floor Amendments of 08/21/26 shorten the duration of the proposed pilot program by two years to January 1, 2030, instead of January 1, 2032, and make additional clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes and vests the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with regulatory jurisdiction over public utilities, including electrical corporations. (Article XII of the California Constitution)

2) Prohibits a public utility from making or granting any preference or advantage to any corporation or person or subject any corporation or person to any prejudice or disadvantage as to rates, charges, service, facilities, or in any other respect. (Public Utilities Code §453)

3) Requires the CPUC to enforce the rules governing the extension of service by a gas or electrical corporation to new residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial customers. (Public Utilities Code §783)

4) Establishes the Powering Up Californians Act and requires the CPUC to determine the criteria for timely service for electrical customers to be energized, including categories of timely electric service through energization, as specified. Requires the CPUC to determine the criteria for timely service for electric customers to be energized. (Public Utilities Code §930 et seq.)

5) Defines "lower income households" to mean persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, including those defined as very low-income households and extremely low-income households. (Health and Safety Code §50079.5)

6) Defines "essential services building" to mean any building designed and constructed for public agencies, such as a fire station, police station, emergency operations center. (Health and Safety Code §16007).

7) Defines "health facility" to mean a facility that is organized, maintained, and operated for the diagnosis, care, prevention, and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, to which the persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer, and includes a general acute care hospital.(Health and Safety Code §1250)

8) Defines "community clinic" to mean a clinic operated by a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, as specified. (Health and Safety Code §1204)

This bill:

1) Requires, until January 1, 2030, SDG&E to energize construction-ready projects within specified timeframes, specifically:

a) Category 1 projects: within 40 business days of being deemed construction ready. Category 1 projects are development projects that are designed to protect, support, or advance the public health, safety, or welfare of the community, and includes only:

   i) Affordable housing developments.
   ii) Development of essential services buildings.
   iii) Development of health facilities.

b) Category 2 projects: within 55 business days of being deemed construction ready. Category 2 projects are the development of a municipal facility or an electric vehicle charger and charging station.

c) Category 3 projects: within 70 business days of being deemed construction ready. Category 3 projects are the development of any other facility and project type.

2) Requires, only until January 1, 2030, reporting on the energization of those construction-ready projects to be included in SDG&E's biannual energization reporting submitted to the CPUC.

3) Provides, if an issue specific to the project arises after SDG&E determines a project is construction ready that reasonably prevents SDG&E from safely and compliantly completing the energization, the timeframes do not apply until the issue has been resolved to the mutual satisfaction of SDG&E and the project applicant.

4) States that SDG&E's compliance with the requirements of this section is not a violation of Public Utilities Code §453 concerning preferential treatment of customers.

5) Requires that SDG&E's compliance with the proposed timeframes complement, and not conflict with nor supersede, any rule, order, or determination by the CPUC pursuant to the Powering Up Californians Act, pursuant to Public Utilities Code §930 *et seq*.

Background

Connecting to the electric and gas distribution grid. Rules governing the ability of new buildings and generation and storage resources to connect to the electric and

gas distribution grid are generally determined by statute, CPUC rules, and tariffs, (i.e., documents that specify rates, charges, rules, and conditions under which an electrical corporation will provide services to the public) for each of the electrical corporations. New service connections refer to extending an electricity or expanding distribution infrastructure to service new or expanded customer load, known as "energization." Electric Tariff Rules 15 and 16 establish the guidelines for design, cost allocation, and responsibilities of a project applicant and a utility for electric distribution line extensions. The ability to connect to the larger electrical system can take months (if not, years, in some cases) as the process can entail the need for designs, assessments on cost allocations associated with improvements on the electric distribution system to allow for the connection, and other issues. In the case of new building developments, depending on the size of the development, the need for electric service extensions may be needed in phases over months, or years.

Energization target time periods. SB 410 (Becker, Chapter 394, Statutes of 2023), the Powering Up Californians Act, required the CPUC to establish by September 30, 2024, reasonable average and maximum target energization time periods in order to connect new customers and upgrade the service of existing customers to the electrical grid. The bill also required reporting by electrical corporations and authorized specified annual cost-recovery, subject to a cap. AB 50 (Wood, Chapter 317, Statutes of 2023) required the CPUC to determine the criteria for timely service for electric customers to be energized. In CPUC proceeding (R. 24-01-018) the CPUC adopted a decision in September 2024 (D. 24-09-020) which established timelines for energization requests and a procedure for customers to report energization delays to the CPUC. The table below notes the new targets and timelines adopted by the CPUC.

Energization Type	Average Energization Target (calendar days)	Maximum Energization Target (calendar days)
Rule 15	182	357
Rule 16	182	335
Rule 15/16 combined	182	306
Application Decision	10	45
Main panel upgrade	30	45

The CPUC decision also identified eight standard energization steps for the three large electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs), Pacific Gas & Electric, SDG&E, and Southern California Edison, including identifying the steps within IOU control and which are within customer or third-party control **(**Steps 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are solely

within the control of an IOU). These steps are: 1) Customer intake; 2) Engineering and Design; 3) Customer Dependencies; 4) Utility Dependencies; 5) Customer Site Readiness; 6) Large Electric IOU Site Readiness; 7) Construction; and 8) Service Energization Provided to the Customer.

The CPUC decision also requires electric IOUs to submit biannual energization reports to the CPUC, with the first report due March 31, 2025, and the second due September 30, 2025, with average completion times, explanations for energization periods that exceed the maximum target, and an analysis of obstacles affecting energization**.** The electric IOUs are required to report compliance with the CPUC's adopted energization targets in those biannual reports. When an electric IOU is out of compliance, it must provide a detailed strategy for meeting the adopted targets in the future. However, the CPUC may require the IOUs to take specific remedial actions based on reported non-compliance to achieve the mandated timelines.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author:

> AB 2518 establishes a straightforward priority: eliminate delays and provide for the community. Energization delays are leaving critical infrastructure projects across San Diego, such as affordable housing, schools, and hospitals vacant and useless despite being ready for public access. When these delays occur, that means families are left living on the street, children can't get access to the care they need, and project costs rise.

SDG&E specific pilot program. This bill requires a five-year pilot program to energize customers by specified timelines for projects determined to be construction-ready, meaning all critical dependencies are completed (including permitting and inspections). Under this bill, SDG&E would need to meet the specific timelines which are intended to be sooner for essential services buildings, affordable housing, and health facilities at 40 business days. Category 2 projects for EV chargers and municipal facilities need to be energized by 55 business days and lastly all other remaining project types could be energized by up to 70 business days. SDG&E suggests these timelines are feasible given the stage of the project is at when it is construction ready. They note this is often the final stage of a project development seeking to receive electricity service from SDG&E distribution system.

Alignment with SB 410 and AB 50 decisions. This bill provides that the pilot program and its timelines are intended to complement and not conflict or supersede any rule, order, or CPUC determination when implementing SB 410 and AB 50. This bill also makes clear that the timelines required are not intended to violate Public Utilities Code §453 prohibiting preferential treatment of customers. The understanding of these intentions is perhaps best demonstrated by the lack of opposition to this proposed pilot program.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1196 (McNerney, 2026) requires the CPUC by September 30, 2027, in a new or existing proceeding, to establish timelines for electrical corporations to respond to and process requests for small energization projects. The bill is pending before the Governor.

(See Policy Committee Analysis for more)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) estimates ongoing costs of $380,000 annually (ratepayer funds) to establish new reporting requirements to track SDG&E's compliance with the bill's energization timelines and oversee the pilot project, among other things.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

San Diego Housing Federation (Source)
San Diego Gas and Electric Company

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the San Diego Housing Federation:

> After years of securing entitlements, financing commitments, and construction permits—and after completing construction—affordable housing developments can sit vacant and uninhabitable simply because SDG&E has not yet completed the electrical connection. These delays are not merely inconvenient. They translate directly into construction loan interest accruing without offsetting

rental income, expiring tax credit deadlines, and months of additional wait time for our most vulnerable neighbors looking for an affordable place to call home. …AB 2518 provides a targeted, sensible remedy. The bill requires SDG&E to prioritize energization of 100% affordable housing development projects over other residential energization projects, while preserving SDG&E's discretion to manage safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance. The bill applies a clear definition of "construction ready" to ensure prioritization is triggered only when a project has completed all prerequisites, avoiding any undue burden on the utility.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Nidia Bautista / E., U. & C. / (916) 651-4107
8/24/26 14:04:07

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2529
Author: Johnson (R)
Amended: 4/9/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Civil claims: public entities and employees: declaration

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires that a claim against a public entity or public employee must include a declaration that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Governs, under the Government Claims Act, the tort liability and immunity of, and claims and actions against, public entities, officers, and employees. (Government (Gov.) Code §§ 815 et seq.)

2) Prohibits an aggrieved person from filing a civil lawsuit against a public entity for damages unless the person satisfies the claim presentation requirements. Some types of claims against public entities are not subject to the claim presentation requirements. (Gov. Code § 945.4.)

3) Provides that a claim relating to a cause of action for death or for injury to person or to personal property or growing crops shall be presented as provided

in Government Code sections 915 et seq., not later than six months after the accrual of the cause of action. (Gov. Code § 911.2.)

4) Requires that a claim against a public entity or public employee be signed by the claimant or by some person on the claimant's behalf and include specified information. (Gov. Code § 910, § 910.2.)

This bill requires a claim against a public entity or public employee to include a declaration that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

Comments

According to the author:

> AB 2529 strengthens the Government Claims Act process and protects taxpayer dollars from frivolous claims by requiring all employment claims against a public entity to include a declaration that the contents of the claim are true and correct. Coming from a background in local government, I believe that this additional layer of protection is incredibly important in ensuring that all legitimate claims can move forward while those that lack merit are filtered out under this declaration.

The Government Claims Act gives public entities the opportunity to address claims for civil damages before the claimant files a civil lawsuit. The Act specifies information that the claimant must present to the public entity. The claim against a public entity must be signed by the claimant or by some person on the claimant's behalf and include specified information. The public entity then has 45 days to decide whether to grant or deny the claim, unless the claimant and public entity both agree to extend the decision timeframe. The claimant is permitted to file a lawsuit in civil court after they receive the public entity decision. If claim presentation requirements are not met, the claimant's law-suit can be dismissed. This bill requires the claim against the public entity to include a declaration that, upon information and belief, the contents of the claim are true and correct.

The author and supporters believe that the updated declaration will lead to less litigation and less costly litigation.

The California Contract Cities Association writes the following in support:

> Under existing law, claims filed against a public entity or its employees must be signed by the claimant. AB 2529 would add a new layer of

accountability to this process by requiring that claimants sign a formal declaration affirming that the

information contained in their claim is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. This added safeguard will discourage the presentation of frivolous or otherwise bad-faith claims, and ultimately help to reduce cities' litigation costs. As written, AB 2529 is a commonsense measure that will improve claim screening, protect limited local resources, and strengthen cities' legal position.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/4/26)

California Contract Cities Association
City of Beverly Hills
City of Carson
City of Cerritos
City of Glendora
City of Hesperia
City of Hidden Hills
City of Ojai
City of Palmdale
City of Pico Rivera
City of Port Hueneme
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
City of Rosemead
City of Tulare
County of Riverside Board of Supervisors
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/4/26)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
California Conference of Amalgamated Transit Union
California Conference of Machinists
Teamsters California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-4, 5/28/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff

Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Boerner, Lee, Ortega, Ward

NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Bennett, Bryan, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Harabedian, Jackson, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Patel, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Solache

Prepared by: Margie Estrada / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/5/26 15:12:48

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2532
Author: Irwin (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Assembly
Vote: 27

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/8/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/11/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Cannabis: labels, packaging, and manufacturing

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires edible cannabis products and cannabis beverages to include the toll-free telephone number for the national Poison Help line on labels and inserts and requires cannabis beverage products with multiple servings to contain specified information and markers related to the serving sizes, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 delay implementation by six months to July 1, 2027, for certain labeling provisions, clarify serving size information required on a cannabis beverage product, specify that a cannabis beverage product manufacturer is required to provide a measuring device thar meets specified requirements, and makes other technical updates.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) to regulate the cultivation, distribution, transport, storage,

manufacturing, processing, and sale of both medicinal cannabis and adult-use cannabis. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 26000)

2) Establishes the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), under the jurisdiction, of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, to administer and regulate provisions of MAUCRSA. (BPC § 26010)

3) Requires all cannabis or cannabis products purchased by a customer to be placed in an opaque package prior to leaving a licensed retail premises. (BPC § 26070.1)

4) Requires cannabis and cannabis products to be labeled and placed in a tamper-evident, child-resistant package and include a unique identifier for the purposes of identifying and tracking prior to delivery or sale at a retailer. Requires package must be re-sealable if the product contains more than one serving. (BPC § 26120(a))

5) Prohibits cannabis product packaging and labels from being attractive to children. (BPC § 26120(b))

6) Requires all cannabis and cannabis products labels and inserts to include the following information displayed in clear and legible fashion in accordance with requirements, including font size, prescribed by the DCC.

This bill:

1) Requires additional labeling information on an edible cannabis product or cannabis beverage product to include the toll-free telephone number for the national poison Help line.

2) Requires the label on a cannabis beverage containing more than one serving to clearly and conspicuously provide a print notice to consumers that the product contains multiple servings, the size of a single serving measured in fluid ounces to nearest tenth of a fluid ounce along with information how to accurately measure a single serving for consumption.

3) Requires for cannabis beverage product containers comprising of more than one serving where the container is transparent or otherwise visibly displays the amount of liquid remaining within the container, to feature unobstructed and conspicuous lines delineating individual or portion sizes unless the container is

shaped in a manner that makes it impossible to feature accurate lines delineating individual serving or portion sizes.

4) Requires at the time of purchase, a consumer be offered a measuring instrument or device provided by the manufacturer on an as-needed basis, that is able to contain at least one fluid ounce and measures to the nearest tenth of a fluid ounce. The measuring instrument is to be free of charge to the consumer.

5) Prohibits a licensed or unlicensed individual engaged in commercial cannabis activity from advertising or marketing cannabis beverage products containing multiple servings as single-serve products or otherwise encourage consumption of multiple servings within a cannabis beverage at one time.

6) Delays implementation for 2-7) above until July 1, 2027.

Background

Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). Today, the DCC is the lead agency responsible for oversight of the regulated cannabis market. DCC has both licensing and enforcement authority related to all commercial cannabis in California, including authority to act against unlicensed cannabis activities and take enforcement actions against any licensee who violates the provisions of MAUCRSA, including for violations of marketing or advertising restrictions. The DCC is vested with authority to make reasonable rules and regulations necessary to implement, enforce, and administer its duties as specified in MAUCRSA. The DCC licenses over 20 license types including laboratories, cultivators, manufacturers, retailers, cannabis event organizers, processors, and distributors. Cannabis in California is regulated from seed to sale including the growing, distribution, and testing of cannabis products.

Labeling and Packaging Requirements for Cannabis. There are strict labeling and packaging requirements for cannabis and cannabis products. Language enacted as part of the original Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) established standards for cannabis packaging and labeling, including specific cautionary statements. Proposition 64 (Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)) then codified nearly identical language for its own mandated label content, with a handful of minor variations reconciled when SB 94 merged MCRSA and AUMA into MAUCRSA. Under current law, all cannabis labels must display the following statement in bold print:

> GOVERNMENT WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CANNABIS, A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND ANIMALS. CANNABIS PRODUCTS MAY ONLY BE POSSESSED OR CONSUMED BY PERSONS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UNLESS THE PERSON IS A QUALIFIED PATIENT. THE INTOXICATING EFFECTS OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS MAY BE DELAYED UP TO TWO HOURS. CANNABIS USE WHILE PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING MAY BE HARMFUL. CONSUMPTION OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE AND OPERATE MACHINERY. PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION.

For cannabis products, the label must display:

> GOVERNMENT WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CANNABIS, A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND ANIMALS. CANNABIS PRODUCTS MAY ONLY BE POSSESSED OR CONSUMED BY PERSONS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UNLESS THE PERSON IS A QUALIFIED PATIENT. THE INTOXICATING EFFECTS OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS MAY BE DELAYED UP TO TWO HOURS. CANNABIS USE WHILE PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING MAY BE HARMFUL. CONSUMPTION OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE AND OPERATE MACHINERY. PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION.

In addition to the above statements, MAUCRSA requires certain information about the product's ingredients and contents to be listed, as well as information associated with a unique identifier number for purposes of tracking the cannabis goods. If the product utilizes a vaporizer, it must include the recycle symbol and all cannabis products are required to display the universal symbol developed by the DCC through regulations. MAUCRSA also authorizes the DCC to set its own additional requirements for cannabis packaging and labeling. Regulations promulgated by the DCC and its predecessors have incorporated additional labeling standards. For example, all labels must be "unobstructed and conspicuous" in at least 6-point type size and must be written in English. If the cannabis product is edible, the regulations require specific information about potential allergens in the product, the names of any artificial colorings, and any sugar, carbohydrates, and total fat per serving.

This bill proposes to mandate that all cannabis and cannabis product labels include the toll-free number for the national Poison Help line. According to information

from the California Department of Public Health *Cannabis Poison Control System Calls Dashboard*, between 2016-2024, the total number of calls to the California Poison Control System increased by 162% where the largest increases in those calls was seen in cannabis exposure among children aged five and under. Four other states require a similar poison control hotline number be marked on a label including New Mexico, Washington, Vermont and New Jersey. Michigan requires the poison control hotline information to be contained in a pamphlet provided at the time of sale.

Under MAUCRSA, cannabis beverages are defined as a "form of edible cannabis product that is intended to be consumed in its final state as a beverage." All cannabis beverages are required to abide by the same labeling requirements as all other cannabis and cannabis products but are authorized to be packaged in containers that are clear or any color. Because cannabis beverage products often contain more than one serving in a container this bill proposes, beginning July 1, 2027, to implement recommendations from the California State Auditor's report by requiring a cannabis beverage container that includes more than one serving to feature unobstructed and conspicuous line(s) delineating the individual and serving size. Additionally, this bill will require manufactures of cannabis beverage products containing more than one serving, to offer the consumer at the time of purchase a free measuring instrument or device that will allow the consumer to measure a single serving. Lastly, this bill would prohibit a licensed or unlicensed individual from advertising or marketing a cannabis beverage product as a "single serving" product if the beverage contains more than one serving.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Public Health Institute
Youth Forward

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/2026)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note generally that this bill will help address challenges of cannabis beverage products and unintentional excessive THC exposure to children.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 5/11/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Gallagher, Lowenthal, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Soria, Wilson

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
8/24/26 13:31:26

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2536
Author: Blanca Rubio (D)
Amended: 3/27/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Horse racing: satellite wagering facilities: authorizations

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various minor revisions to existing Horse Racing Law governing the authorization of satellite wagering facilities in the state, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Prohibits, pursuant to the Horse Racing Law, a satellite wagering facility, except a facility that is located at a track where live racing is conducted, from being located within 20 miles of any existing satellite wagering facility or of any track where a racing association conducts a live racing meeting, except, in the northern zone, the racing association or existing satellite wagering facility is authorized to waive this prohibition and consent to locating the new satellite wagering facility within 20 miles of the facility of the track.

2) Requires, before a satellite wagering facility may be licensed for the 1997 and subsequent calendar years, the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to conduct a one-year test at the proposed site in order to determine the impact of the proposed facility on total state parimutuel revenues and on attendance and wagering at existing racetracks and fair satellite wagering facilities in the Counties of Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano.

3) Authorizes fairs to contract for the operation and management of a satellite wagering facility with an individual racing association or a partnership, joint venture, or other affiliation of two or more racing associations or fairs that are licensed to conduct thoroughbred meetings or simulcast wagering within the northern zone.

This bill:

1) Expands the above-mentioned 20-mile exemption to include the entire state.

2) Deletes the requirement that the CDFA conduct a one-year test as described above.

3) Expands the above-mentioned authorization for fairs to contract for thoroughbred meetings or simulcast wagering within the state, as specified.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "this bill is intended to provide technical and clarifying changes to the Horse Racing Law following the cessation of live horse racing in Northern California in December 2024. This update is necessary because current authorizations for satellite wagering and related distributions are tied to geographic racing zones (Northern, Central, and Southern). The bill would extend an existing satellite wagering authorization, contingent upon consent from entities involved in statewide live racing operations. It would not expand current law; rather, it ensures that an existing authorization remains available should the industry choose to utilize it."

Horse Racing in California. The horse racing industry in California is grappling with a multifaceted crisis that threatens its long-term viability. Over the past three to four decades, California's horse racing industry has seen a significant decline in attendance, purses, and betting handle—a trend that mirrors shifts in consumer habits and growing competition from alternative forms of entertainment and

gambling. In its heyday, iconic tracks like Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Hollywood Park attracted tens of thousands of spectators on race days, creating a vibrant atmosphere that drove robust on-track wagering. As simulcasting emerged in the 1980s and online betting platforms took off in the early 2000s, fans increasingly chose to place their bets from home or at local simulcast facilities rather than visiting the tracks, causing live attendance to plummet.

In 2023, it was announced that the Golden Gate Fields racing track on the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay would be closing permanently at the end of their 2024 meet. In early 2025, the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) announced that it would abandon plans to organize horse racing in Northern California throughout several county fairs. At the time of last summer's racing meet, there were roughly 900 horses stalled in Pleasanton at the Alameda County fairgrounds, however with the closure of Golden Gate Fields and increasing financial distress, there were somewhere between 450 and 500 at the time of CARF's announcement.

The Alameda County Fair Board voted in January of this year to shut down their racing operations, citing an outdated water drainage system and an inability to sustain so many horses. Again, the larger issue continues to be the increasing unprofitability of the industry. According to a recent article by *NBC Bay Area News* titled "Race horses forced out of Alameda County Fairgrounds leaving owners, trainers scrambling," Alameda County Fairgrounds CEO Jerome Hoban said, "[i]t's no secret that horse racing has been economically moving in the wrong direction for a long time," and that "[t]he Alameda County Fair has lost over $2 million in just the fall race meet." This effectively ended the long-standing northern zone regional circuit.

Satellite Wagering. Satellite wagering via an off-track facility has been legal in California since the 1980s when California racetracks began experiencing declining attendance and handle figures. The industry believed that making the product easier to access not only would expose and market horse racing to potential customers but also make it more convenient for the existing patrons to wager more frequently. However, while off-track-betting and simulcasting can open new revenue pathways, they may cannibalize traditional on-track income, putting tracks at further financial risk and potentially contributing to closures.

Simulcasting. Simulcasting is the process of transmitting the audio and video signal of a live racing performance from one facility to a satellite for re-transmission to other locations or venues where pari-mutuel wagering is permitted.

Simulcasting provides racetracks with the opportunity to increase revenues by exporting their live racing content to as many wagering locations as possible, such as other racetracks, fair satellite facilities, and Indian casinos. Revenues increase because simulcasting provides racetracks that export their live content with additional customers in multiple locations who would not have otherwise been able to place wagers on the live racing event.

Thoroughbred racing associations and fairs in California can distribute the audiovisual signal and accept wagers on the results of out-of-state thoroughbred races during their own race meetings. This is allowed even on days when no live races are being held at their venues. There is a limit on the number of out-of-state races that can be imported into California for betting purposes. On days when there is live thoroughbred or fair racing happening in California, the total number of races imported from out-of-state must not exceed 75 races-per-day.

However, there are exceptions to this limit. Races that are part of specific major events like the Kentucky Derby, Breeders' Cup, and other specified races can be imported without falling under the 75 race-per-day limit. Additional exceptions are made for importing races into certain geographical zones of California when no local live racing is occurring. Any wagering on these out-of-state races must comply with specific provisions of California's Horse Racing Law that govern how betting should be conducted. Wagers on out-of-state races are not allowed after 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time unless there is consent from the local harness or quarter horse racing associations conducting live racing in either Sacramento or Orange County.

Advance Deposit Wagering. The California horse racing industry entered into a new era in 2002 with the advent of Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) which allows customers to deposit funds into an account in order to wager online and/or over the phone. These wagers are commingled into pools at the host track where the races are run, and within the pari-mutuel wagering system regulated by California Horse Racing Board (CHRB). Currently, eight ADW providers are operating in the state under a CHRB license. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year (FY), off-track betting within the state provided 13% of the total handle. The balance of the handle comes from out-of-state and ADW wagers – ADW accounted for about 45% or $1.34 billion. ADW remains the only legal form of online wagering in California.

Pari-mutuel Wagering. Horse racing has been active in California since the 1800s, but horse racing as we now know it – under the pari-mutuel wagering system – was

not made possible until the electorate passed a constitutional amendment in 1933. The expressed intent of California's Horse Racing Law is to allow pari-mutuel wagering on horse races. Pari-mutuel, from the French term for mutual betting, is a betting system in which all bets of a particular type are placed together in a pool, and payoff odds are calculated by sharing the pool among all winning bets. Pari-mutuel betting differs from fixed-odds betting in that the final payout is not determined until the pool is closed – in fixed-odds betting, the payout is agreed at the time the bet is sold.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1294 (Rubio, 2026) adds the Japan Cup to the existing group of thoroughbred horse race meetings that are exempt from the 75 race-per-day limit on imported races into California for the purposes of wagering. (Pending on the Assembly Inactive File)

AB 2792 (Committee on Governmental Organization, 2026) adds the New York Stakes to the existing group of thoroughbred horse race meetings that are exempt from the 75 race-per-day limit on imported races into California for the purposes of wagering. (Pending on the Seante Floor)

SB 844 (S. Rubio, 2025) increases the current cap on the importation of out-of-state thoroughbred races by a thoroughbred association or fair, on days when live thoroughbred or fair racing is being conducted in the state from 75 to 80 races-per-day. (Never Heard in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

AB 1526 (Committee on Governmental Organization, 2025) makes various technical and non-substantive changes to provisions of the Horse Racing Law, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

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8/6/26 11:34:13

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2539
Author: Ramos (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

PRIOR VOTES NOT RELEVANT

NOTE: On August 11, 2026, the Senate Governmental Organization Committee held an informational hearing on the tribal-state gaming compact between the State of California and the Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California

SUBJECT: Tribal-state gaming compacts: ratification

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill ratifies the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the State of California and the Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California, executed on August 4, 2026.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/20/26, delete the previous bill and instead ratify the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the State of California and the Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California, executed on August 4, 2026.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), for the negotiation and conclusion of compacts between federally recognized Indian tribes and the State for the purpose of conducting Class III gaming activities on Indian lands within a State as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments.

2) Authorizes expressly a number of tribal-state gaming compacts between the State of California and specified Indian tribes.

3) Authorizes the conduct of Class III gaming activities to the extent such activities are permitted by state law, a gaming compact has been concluded by a federally recognized tribe and the State, and the compact has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

4) Limits the operation of Class III gaming activities to Indian lands acquired on or before October 17, 1988. Provides, for certain exceptions to conduct gaming activities on Indian lands acquired after October 17, 1988.

5) Defines "Indian lands" to mean all lands within the limits of any Indian reservation, and any lands title to which is either held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe, or individual, or held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restriction by the U.S. against alienation and over which an Indian tribe exercises governmental power.

6) Requires the State to negotiate to conclude a compact in good faith with an Indian tribe having jurisdiction over the Indian lands upon which the Class III gaming activity is to be conducted. Provides the U.S. district courts with jurisdiction over any cause of action initiated by a tribal government alleging that the State failed to negotiate in good faith to conclude a compact. Prescribes the remedy, mediation supervised by the courts, if it is found that the State failed to negotiate in good faith to conclude a compact.

7) Authorizes the Governor, under the California Constitution, to negotiate and conclude compacts, subject to ratification by the Legislature.

This bill:

1) Ratifies the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the State of California and the Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California, executed on August 04, 2026.

2) Contains an urgency clause.

Background

Tribal-State Gaming Compact. The Tribal-State Gaming Compact (hereafter "Compact") between the Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California (hereafter "Tribe") was executed on August 04, 2026. The Compact authorizes the Tribe to operate a maximum of 349 slot machines at no more than three gaming facilities located on eligible Indian lands held in trust for the Tribe.

The Tribe has agreed to pay the State its pro rata share of costs the State incurs for the performance of its duties under the Compact. The Compact does not require the Tribe to pay into the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (RSTF) or the Tribal Nation Grant Fund (TNGF).

Certain terms of the Compact related to licensing, regulatory, patron protection, and public health provisions are substantially the same as recent compacts. Specifically, the Compact includes a Tribal Labor Relations Ordinance (TLRO), which provides that gaming may commence only after the Tribe has adopted a TLRO that allows for a secret ballot election and union neutrality.

The Compact's preamble notes that the Tribe and the State have concluded that this compact protects the interests of the Tribe and its members, the surrounding community, and the California public, and will promote and secure long-term stability, mutual respect, and mutual benefit.

The Tribe currently operates the Redwood Hotel Casino which consists of two separate entities, the Redwood Holiday Inn Express and the Redwood Casino. The Redwood Holiday Inn Express is a 60-room hotel complete with exercise room and pool. The Redwood Casino, located in Klamath, CA, currently hosts 99 Class III machines and includes the Abalone Bar and Grill. The development of the Redwood Hotel Casino is only a portion of a broader master plan for the Tribe, community, which also includes the Yurok Construction Corporation, Yurok Indian Housing Authority, Yurok Language Department, Yurok Office of Emergency Services, Yurok Telecommunications Corp, and the Yurok Tribal Court.

Once effective (legislative ratification and federal approval required), this Compact will be in full force and effect for 25 years following the effective date.

Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In 1988, Congress enacted IGRA to provide a statutory basis for the operation and regulation of gaming on Indian lands. IGRA provides that an Indian tribe may conduct gaming activity on Indian lands if the activity "is not specifically prohibited by federal law and is conducted within a State which does not prohibit such gaming activity."

IGRA distinguishes between three classes of gaming (Class I, Class II, and Class III) and provides for different forms of regulation for each class. Class I gaming includes "social games" for minor prizes or "traditional forms of Indian gaming." Class II gaming is defined to include bingo and card games that are explicitly authorized by the laws of the state, or that are not explicitly prohibited by the laws

of the state and are played at any location in the State, so long as the card games are played in conformity with those laws and regulations. Class III gaming includes such things as slot machines, casino games, and banked card games such as blackjack and baccarat. Class III gaming may only be conducted under terms of a compact negotiated between an Indian tribe and a State.

IGRA was enacted against a legal background in which Indian tribes and individuals generally are exempt from state taxation within their own territory. IGRA provides that with the exception of assessments permitted under the statute, to defray the State's costs of regulating gaming activity, IGRA shall not be interpreted as conferring upon a State authority to impose any tax, fee, charge, or other assessment upon an Indian tribe to engage in Class III activity. Nor may a State refuse to enter into negotiations based on the lack of authority to impose such a tax, fee, charge, or other assessment.

When a tribe requests negotiations for a Class III compact, IGRA requires the State to negotiate with the Indian tribe in good faith. IGRA provides a comprehensive process to prevent an impasse in compact negotiations, which is triggered when a tribe files suit alleging that the State has refused to negotiate or has failed to negotiate in good faith.

Before 2000, the California Constitution prohibited Class III gaming. In 2000, California voters approved Proposition 1A, which had been proposed by the Governor and passed by the Legislature. Proposition 1A amended the California Constitution to permit the State to negotiate compacts with federally recognized Indian tribes for certain Class III gaming activities. Because non-Indian parties were still forbidden from operating gaming facilities, Proposition 1A granted Indian tribes a "constitutionally protected monopoly on most types of Class III games in California."

Chicken Ranch Decision. In 2021, the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, along with four other tribes—the Blue Lake Rancheria, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, and Robinson Rancheria—filed suit against the State of California and Governor Gavin Newsom. The tribes alleged that the state violated IGRA by failing to negotiate new Class III gaming compacts in good faith.

According to the complaint, California insisted on compact terms covering family law, environmental regulation, and tort liability—subjects that the tribes argued were outside IGRA's limited scope, which allows negotiation only on matters directly related to the operation of gaming activities. In July 2022, the Ninth

Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's finding that California's demands exceeded IGRA's bounds and therefore constituted bad-faith negotiation. The court ordered the parties to move forward under IGRA's remedial process. Under that process, if the parties are ultimately not able to agree on a compact, a mediator reviews each side's "last best offer" and selects the proposal that best aligns with federal law, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs) issues Secretarial Procedures regulating the tribe's gaming operation without state involvement. This outcome was viewed by Indian tribes as a significant affirmation of tribal sovereignty and a rejection of state overreach in tribal gaming regulation. The Governor's office believes the terms of this Compact are consistent with this court decision.

Revenue Sharing Trust Fund. Existing law creates in the State Treasury the RSTF for the receipt and deposit of monies derived from gaming device license fees that are paid into the RSTF pursuant to the terms of specified tribal-state gaming compacts for the purpose of making distributions to non-compacted California tribes (e.g., federally-recognized non-gaming tribes and tribes that operate casinos with fewer than 350 slot machines). Revenue in the RSTF is available to CGCC, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for making distributions of $1.1 million annually to non-compact tribes. The RSTF was created as part of the 1999 compacts, which, in conjunction with the passage of Proposition 1A, created gaming compacts with approximately 60 California tribes. Non-compact tribes are considered third-party beneficiaries of the 1999 compacts.

Tribal Nation Grant Fund. This particular fund (referenced in recent compacts) was created to complement the RSTF and provides for the distribution of funds to non-gaming tribes, upon application of such tribes for purposes related to effective self-governance, self-determined community, and economic development. Payments from this fund are intended to be made to non-gaming tribes on a "need" basis, upon application.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/28/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 4/16/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Berman, Bonta, Dixon, Flora, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

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8/24/26 14:11:52

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2540
Author: Stefani (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas
NOES: Grove
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-2, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-18, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public health: public postsecondary education: student health centers: abortion by medication techniques

SOURCE: ACCESS Reproductive Justice
Black Women for Wellness Action Project
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Plan C
Reproductive Freedom for All California
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
TEACH
Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity California

DIGEST: This bill requires a community college that has a student health center, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to offer medication abortion, promote awareness of those services, provide information on those services to students, and post their availability its website.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/2026 are technical and clarifying in nature.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) student health centers to offer medication abortion onsite. Permits this service to be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, or by providers associated with a contracted external agency. [Education Code (EDC) §99251(a)]

2) Requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to administer the College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund, for the purposes of providing private moneys in the form of direct allocations to UC and CSU to support medication abortion readiness at each student health center. [EDC §99251(b)(1)]

3) Requires the Commission, upon request from a UC or CSU student health center, to assist and advise on potential pathways for the student health center to bill public programs and health insurance to help pay for the costs of providing medication abortion. Requires the Commission, each year until December 31, 2026, to submit a report to the Legislature that includes information about the number of health centers that provide medication abortion, the numbers of medication abortions provided, and funding used for medication abortion at student health centers. [EDC §99251(b)(4)(B) and §99251(e)]

This bill:

1) Requires community colleges that have a student health center, beginning January 1, 2029, to offer access to medication abortion. Permits this service to be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, by providers associated with a contracted external agency, or through partnerships with other community health providers, as appropriate. Requires a community college to be deemed to provide access through a partnership with a community health provider if the health center has

established a written referral relationship, memorandum of understanding, or contract with one or more licensed providers capable of providing abortion by medication techniques.

2) Permits community colleges to satisfy this requirement by facilitating referrals or warm handoffs, assisting students in identifying support resources, and maintaining current referral information for participating providers.

3) Requires a community college that has a student health center to promote awareness of the availability of medication abortion services, provide that information to students, and post their availability on its website.

4) Requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, upon request from a community college student health center, to assist and advise on potential pathways for the student health center to bill public programs and health insurance providers to help pay for the costs of providing access to medication abortion.

5) Permits the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to enter into a statewide agreement with a health provider to provide community college student health centers with the services and resources needed to meet the requirements of this bill.

6) Requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, by January 1, 2030, to submit a report to the Legislature, that includes, but is not limited to, the following information separately for each community college:

   a) The number of student health centers that provide medication abortion, provide access to medication abortion through other providers, or both; and,

   b) The number of medication abortions performed at student health centers or assisted through student health centers, disaggregated, to the extent possible, by student health center.

7) Requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, in consultation with the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, to develop a standardized reporting framework that minimizes administrative burden and protects student privacy. Requires a community college student health center to only be required to report information that is reasonably available through its existing operations and records. Prohibits this bill from requiring a community college district or student health center to collect protected health information

from an external provider, track services delivered by an external provider beyond information voluntarily provided by a student or the provider, or establish new clinical data systems for the sole purpose of meeting the reporting requirements.

8) Makes the implementation of the requirements related to community colleges contingent upon an appropriation for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute to support the cost, both direct and indirect, of meeting the requirements of this section. Permits any appropriated funds to be used for implementation readiness activities and ongoing operational costs, including, but not limited to:

   a) Telehealth infrastructure and technology;

   b) Contracts with external providers and community partners;

   c) Clinical staffing, prescribing services, and medical oversight;

   d) Staff training and professional development;

   e) Administrative and legal support;

   f) Insurance billing consultation and infrastructure;

   g) Student outreach and educational materials;

   h) Data collection and reporting; and,

   i) Other direct and indirect costs reasonably necessary.

9) Requires UC and CSU student health centers to promote awareness of medication abortion services they offer, provide information on those services to students, and post their availability on their websites.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> Reproductive healthcare is an essential part of student health. All students deserve the same, equitable access to critical services – no matter what type of college they choose to attend. While CSU and UC students already have access to medication abortion, community college students, who are more likely to be low-income, working, and students of color, do not get to reap the benefits of this important service. This bill closes a gap by ensuring that 2.2 million

students can access medication abortion services at their student health centers, through telehealth, or through contracted external entities. This bill will also require campuses to provide information about medication abortion services, so students can access care without stigma, confusion or delay.

Abortion. Sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion care, are included in the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2020 list of essential health care services. According to the WHO, abortion is a simple health care intervention that can be safely and effectively managed by a wide range of health workers using medication or a surgical procedure. In the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, a medical abortion can also be safely managed by a pregnant person at home. This requires that the person has access to accurate information, quality medicines, and support from a trained health worker (if they need or want it during the process).

According to a May 2026 KFF factsheet on medication abortion, there are two medication abortion regimens that have a long safety and efficacy record: mifepristone with misoprostol (the most common regimen in the U.S.) and misoprostol alone. Mifepristone, also known as RU-486, is sold under the brand name Mifeprex and through a generic manufactured by GenBioPro. Mifepristone works by blocking progesterone, a hormone essential to the development of a pregnancy, and preventing a pregnancy from progressing. Misoprostol, taken 24 to 48 hours after mifepristone, works to empty the uterus by causing cramping and bleeding, similar to an early miscarriage. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found that medication abortion is a safe and highly effective method of pregnancy termination, and approves use of medical abortions for up to ten weeks of pregnancy. In 2023, the FDA announced the in-person dispensing requirement for medication abortion was formally removed. When taken, medication abortion successfully terminates pregnancy 91.9% to 99.7% of the time, with a 0.4% risk of major complications, and an associated mortality rate of 0.0005%. While the combined regimen of mifepristone and misoprostol for medication abortion is recommended, there is a second medication abortion protocol using misoprostol only that is more commonly used internationally. The regimen is also recommended for up to ten weeks of pregnancy. Research has shown the misoprostol-only regimen to be a safe and highly effective method of pregnancy termination; however, it may result in a higher incidence of side effects, particularly diarrhea, fever, and chills. The misoprostol-only regimen successfully terminates pregnancy approximately 80% to 100% of the time, with a complication rate of less than 1%.

Coverage for abortion care. The national median self-pay price for abortion medication in 2023 was $563, although medications provided by telehealth clinics were much lower in price ($150). Although Danco Laboratories does not make the cost of Mifeprex public, providers report that Mifeprex pills alone cost them around $90 a pill. GenBioPro, the manufacturer of the generic mifepristone drug also does not report the cost of their pill. Federal Medicaid funding only pays for abortions when the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest or a threat to the pregnant person's life. In California, the Knox-Keene Act requires the provision of basic health care services, and the California Constitution prohibits health plans from discriminating against women who choose to terminate a pregnancy. Thus, all health plans must treat maternity services and legal abortion neutrally. Exclusions and limitations are also incompatible with both the California Reproductive Privacy Act and multiple California judicial decisions that have unambiguously established under the California Constitution that every pregnant person has the fundamental right to choose to either bear a child or to have a legal abortion. A health plan is not required to cover abortions that would be unlawful under existing law. The Medi-Cal program is one of 20 state Medicaid programs that use state funds to cover abortion and follow-up services. The Medi-Cal program covers abortions as a physician service without cost sharing for all enrollees.

Commission annual report. SB 24 (Leyva, Chapter 740, Statutes of 2019) requires CSU and UC student health centers to offer medication abortion services, and requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to produce annual reports of how each UC and CSU are expending funds for medication abortion services. According to the 2025 report, all ten UC campuses have implemented the provision of medication abortion in their student health centers on January 1, 2024. All 23 CSU campuses implemented the provision of medication abortion in their student health centers on January 1, 2023. Below is a table summarizing data for UC and CSU campuses.

Table 1: Select SB 24 Data by Campus

Fiscal Year	Cumulative Total of State Grant Funds Expended by UC Campuses[4]	Total Number of Abortions by Medication Provided on UC Campuses		Cumulative Total of State Grant Funds Expended by CSU Campuses[5]	Total Number of Abortions by Medication Provided on CSU Campuses
2020-21	$434,429.31	–		–	–
2021-22	$656,503.31	72		–	0
2022-23	$926,505.66	203		$1,628,519.98	162
2023-24	$1,009,379.12	276		$2,728,740.92	412
2024-25	$1,294,135.08	297		$3,285,329.02	349

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office indicates unknown, but likely minor to moderate Proposition 98 General Fund costs, if districts satisfy the bill through referral-based partnerships with qualified healthcare providers. Based on a recent statewide survey conducted by the Health Services Association of California Community Colleges, more than 95% of community college health centers currently rely on referrals to external providers, while fewer than 5% provide medication abortion onsite. Under this referral model, costs would be primarily associated with updating protocols, training staff, providing patient education and care coordination, and conducting outreach regarding available services.

  To the extent districts instead choose to provide medication abortion onsite or through telehealth partnerships, ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs could increase to the millions of dollars statewide. These models would require colleges to hire or contract with prescribing clinicians, establish new protocols, purchase equipment and supplies, train staff, modify facilities and information systems, and provide ongoing clinical oversight and compliance. Because community college health centers vary considerably in staffing, clinical capacity, and available resources, implementation costs would ultimately depend on the model each district adopts.
  Minor one-time General Fund state operations costs for the Chancellor's Office to consult with the Commission on Status of Woman and Girls on collecting data for the report.
- UC and CSU anticipate minor and absorbable costs.
- The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

ACCESS Reproductive Justice (co-source)
Black Women for Wellness Action Project (co-source)
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (co-source)
Plan C (co-source)
Reproductive Freedom for All California (co-source)
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (co-source)
TEACH (co-source)
Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity California (co-source)
Alianza
American Association of University Women – California

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists – District IX
American Nurses Association/California
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Southern California
Buen Vecino
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
California Medical Association
California Nurse-Midwives Association
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Teachers Association
California Women's Law Center
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Health Access California
Health Services Association California Community Colleges
Indivisible CA Statestrong
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Maternal and Child Health Access
National Health Law Program
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Reproductive Freedom for All California
San Francisco Marin Medical Society
The Women's Foundation California
University of California Student Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Catholic Conference
California Family Council
Concerned Women for America
Fieldstead and Company, Inc.
Livingwell Medical Clinic
One individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill is sponsored by ACCESS Reproductive Justice, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Reproductive Freedom for All, and Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity. The sponsors note that The College Student Right to Access Act (SB 24) was signed and passed into law in 2019 to reduce barriers to abortion care for college students. Although SB 24 has been able to support students on these campuses, it left a huge gap for community college students. The sponsors state that this bill

closes that gap by allowing California community colleges that have existing student health centers to provide students with medication abortion services. Community colleges are the largest educational system within the state of California with 116 campuses that serve over two million students every year. The sponsors argue that the pathway that community colleges offer for students is the largest starting point for college students across the state, and while all 116 community colleges are required to have basic needs services, the presence of comprehensive, fully operational on-campus student health centers varies. Multiple sources show that about 93 out of the 116 (nearly 80%) community colleges have a student health center with others relying on partnerships, referrals, or telehealth to offer services. The sponsors conclude that California college students, no matter community college, CSU or UC, need and deserve equitable access to abortion care and that to achieve true reproductive freedom for all Californians, we must ensure that communities have equitable access to medication abortion care.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: California Catholic Conference states that abortion is already free and ubiquitous in California – available on college campuses, performed by doctors, nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants, as well as at 400 facilities across the state, and via telehealth and a dozen sources by mail. At the same time, student parents face a lack of affordable and accessible childcare with waitlists of a year or more on campus, high family housing costs, and fewer and fewer options for medical care. Pushing unwanted abortion on our communities is exploitative and is reproductive coercion. California Family Council writes that if the California Legislature is genuinely concerned about the health and well-being of pregnant students, it should ensure that the full range of support options receives equal or greater visibility and promotion on campus. Pregnancy resource centers across California offer no-cost medical services, material support, counseling, and ongoing care to women facing unplanned pregnancies, without the documented physical risks associated with chemical abortion. Additionally, adoption is a great option that should be promoted. Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee states that positioning abortion as essential healthcare shapes societal attitudes toward life, implicitly suggesting that some lives are expendable. A society that affirms the value of life at all stages builds support systems for families and pregnant individuals, rather than normalizing the deliberate ending of life as a routine medical service.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-18, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon,

Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Melanie Moreno / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 13:52:45

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2551
Author: Elhawary (D)
Amended: 7/2/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh, Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: Equity in Higher Education Act: prohibition on violence, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination: student hearings

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California State University (CSU), and requests of the University of California (UC), to: (1) hold an open forum on a selected campus, by December 31, 2027, to elicit student feedback regarding content-neutral time, place, and manner (TPM) restrictions, and (2) submit information on student code of conduct violations that occurred during, or as a result of, a protest on campus and a description of the discipline imposed on the student as a result of the specified student code of conduct violation.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Requires that no person in the United States, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or

be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. (United States Code, Title 42, Chapter 21, Subchapter V, § 2000d … commonly known as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act)

2) Prohibits Congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. (First Amendment to the United States Constitution)

Existing state law:

1) States that the Trustees of the CSU and the Regents of the UC have the primary responsibility to prevent and address conduct that either creates a hostile environment for students on campus, or results in differential treatment of students on campus based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or disability status. (Education Code (EC) § 66270.7)

2) Requires the Trustees of the CSU and requests the Regents of the UC to adopt rules and procedures in the student codes of conduct that: a) prohibit violent, harassing, intimidating, or discriminatory conduct that creates a hostile environment on campus, and b) prohibit conduct that limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the free exchange of ideas or the educational mission of the universities. (EC § 66270.7)

3) Provides that every person may freely speak, write, and publish his or her sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of this right, and prohibits a law from restraining or abridging liberty of speech or press. (California Constitution, Article I, § 2)

4) Prohibits the Regents of the UC, the Trustees of the CSU, the governing board of a community college district, a private postsecondary educational institution, and an administrator of any campus of those institutions, from making or enforcing a rule subjecting a student to disciplinary sanction solely on the basis of conduct that is speech or other communication that, when engaged in outside a campus of those institutions, is protected from governmental restriction by the United States Constitution or California Constitution. (EC § 66301 and § 94367)

5) Provides that #3 and #4 do not prohibit an institution from adopting rules and regulations that are designed to prevent hate violence from being directed at students in a manner that denies them their full participation in the educational process, if the rules and regulations conform to standards established by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution for citizens generally. (EC § 66301 and § 94367)

This bill:

1) Requires the CSU, and requests of the UC, to include—as part of a report submitted annually on student code of conduct violations—information on student code of conduct violations that occurred during, or as a result of, a protest on campus and a description of the discipline imposed on the student as a result of the specified student code of conduct violation, and requires any submitted student data to be disaggregated by race and gender.

2) Requires the CSU, and requests of the UC, to hold an open forum on a selected campus, by December 31, 2027, to elicit student feedback regarding content-neutral TPM restrictions, including how students feel about the restrictions and the way the restrictions are being enforced.

3) Requires the CSU, and requests of the UC, to notify the relevant policy committees of the Legislature of the location and date of the specified open forum.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "Due to the unintended consequences of prior legislation, students are most directly affected by time, place, and manner (TPM) restrictions and their enforcement, yet their perspectives are often overlooked. Various pressing concerns have been raised about TPM implementation, including the arrest of peaceful protesters, the disciplinary actions against student advocates and organizers, and the disproportionate impact of enforcement on students and faculty of color. … AB 2551 creates meaningful opportunities for students to contribute their thoughts and experiences in informing campus policy that affects their rights, safety, and lives on campus."

2) *Recent legislation addressing protests on college campuses.* In the wake of protests on college campuses in spring 2024, the 2024 Budget Act required the

CSU and the UC to prepare a campus climate notification by the beginning of the Fall 2024 term and to develop a systemwide framework to provide for consistency with campus implementation and enforcement. (For the UC specifically, a lack of compliance meant that $25 million from the state budget would not be released to UC campuses.) Further, the 2024 Budget Act required each UC and CSU campus to provide notification of the following to students before the start of each academic year:

a) The campus' TPM policy, which identifies the allowable parameters of free speech activities and the campus.

b) The Student Code of Conduct, which identifies acceptable student behavior, and relevant state and federal laws.

c) The systemwide Nondiscrimination Policy.

d) The process by which the campus will resolve any complaint of a violation of relevant institutional policies, state law, or federal law, including complaints against individuals not affiliated with the campus.

e) The range of consequences possible for students, faculty, or staff who violate relevant institutional policies, state law, or federal law.

f) How the campus may respond to activities that threaten the safety of students, faculty, or staff, and disrupt their ability to access the campus or buildings, the educational process, or activities on campus.

g) How the campus intends to foster healthy discourse and bring together campus community members, and viewpoints that are ideologically different, in order to best promote the educational mission of the institution and the exchange of ideas in a safe and peaceful manner.

h) Identify educational programs and activities for faculty, staff, and students to support the balance between free speech activities, educational mission, and student safety.

i) A list of the resources available on campus for faculty, staff, and students to receive mental health and trauma support.

Three months later, SB 1287 (Glazer, Chapter 892, Statutes of 2024) was signed by the Governor. SB 1287 requires the Trustees of the CSU, and requests the Regents of the UC, to adopt rules and procedures in the student codes of conduct that:

a) Prohibit violent, harassing, intimidating, or discriminatory conduct that creates a hostile environment on campus.

b) Prohibit conduct that limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the free exchange of ideas or the educational mission of the segment.

c) Establish reasonable content-neutral TPM restrictions, and, if applicable, any advance permitting requirements for protests on campus.

SB 1287 also requires the campuses to adopt rules and procedures to take reasonable steps to respond to each incident creating a hostile environment on campus, or that limits the free exchange of ideas; requires mandatory training programs for students; and requires students to acknowledge their campus' student code of conduct.

3) *Consistent with 2024 Budget Act requirements, UC and CSU put forward systemwide frameworks in August 2024.* Before 2024, all UC and CSU campuses had TPM restrictions to ensure safety, security, and order. However, the 2024 Budget Act specifically required the UC and CSU systems to develop a systemwide framework to provide consistency with campus implementation and enforcement.

   In letters sent to leadership of their respective campuses in August 2024, the UC Office of the President provided a directive to each campus to provide a compilation of existing policies that most commonly apply to protest and demonstration activity, while the CSU Chancellor's Office developed and issued a systemwide TPM policy. Both UC and CSU letters also included prohibitions on university property for the following:

   a) Camping/encampments and unauthorized structures.

   b) Restricting free movement, particularly regarding denying access to a university facility/space or occupying buildings and facilities.

c) Masking to conceal identity, either with the intent to violate laws or policies or with the intent to intimidate any person or group.

4) *Reasonable content-neutral TPM restrictions*. Freedom of speech on college campuses is allowed within the confines of student codes of conduct and TPM restrictions. Institutions cannot discipline a student for engaging in a free speech activity, but can discipline a student if the free speech activity crosses into unlawful behavior, or otherwise violates an institution's student codes of conduct.

   All UC and CSU campuses maintain TPM restrictions to ensure safety, security, and order, and have been permitted to do so long before the enactment of SB 1287. As established by case law, reasonable TPM restrictions on protected speech are permissible, provided that the restriction is content neutral, that the restriction serves a significant governmental interest, that the restriction is not more extensive than necessary to serve that interest, and that alternative means must exist to communicate the expression that is limited by the regulation.

   TPM restrictions regulate when, where, and how expression may occur freely. Regarding time, regulations may restrict the use of amplified sound during early morning or late evening hours in public forums, and case law also permits the requirement that large groups get a permit in advance of an event, protest, or demonstration. Regarding place, case law distinguishes between public and non-public forums where speech may be expressed freely, and regulations allow for activities to not block pathways or traffic. Regarding manner, regulations may address decibel levels of amplified sound, limits on signs and banner size, erecting physical structures, and the use of barricades to ensure pathways and emergency access.

5) *This bill requires the segments to hold an open forum for students about TPM restrictions.* This bill requires the CSU, and requests of the UC, to hold an open forum on a campus to elicit feedback regarding content-neutral TPM restrictions, including how students feel about the restrictions and the way the restrictions are being enforced. The author has expressed concerns with how SB 1287 has been enforced and seeks an avenue for students to provide feedback on TPM restrictions. In particular, the author indicates that campus police and administration have at times implemented or enforced the provisions of SB 1287 in an overly rigid or overzealous way, such that some students have felt targeted based on what they are protesting. Though there are opportunities for students to express concerns by engaging with campus and system leadership

and providing public comment at meetings of the Trustees or Regents, if students do feel that enforcement of TPM restrictions are disproportionately skewed toward them without justifiable cause, it may be difficult to express those concerns through typical public settings.

6) *Relationship between TPM restrictions, the student codes of conduct, and student discipline.* The author's office states that certain students have felt that the response from campus police and campus administration during student protests has been outsized relative to the level of purported infraction. For example, the author's office has stated that some students who stepped outside the permitted protest area feel that campus police overreacted to their doing so. However, it should be noted that institutions' policies do not penalize students for violations of TPM restrictions specifically; rather, any discipline for students would result from a violation of the student code of conduct or from unlawful behavior, according to the institutions' policies.

   As an example, UC's August 2024 letter required their campuses to have a consistent tiered response across all campuses that starts with informing a person of a violation, making multiple requests, and being warned of potential consequences, and then escalates to being cited for a violation of relevant UC policy, and arresting or detaining someone for unlawful behavior. In the case of a student merely stepping outside the permitted protest area, that does not seem like it would necessarily, on its face, result in a violation of the student code of conduct. However, if the campus police were overzealous in their policing of the protest area, that should be reviewed and could be seen as overstepping how the policies are meant to be implemented.

7) *What evidence do we have of these issues?* The author's office cited having heard about these issues from meetings with small groups of students, and later consulting with student groups, but it is not known how widespread an issue this is, and if there is a root cause. The anecdotes that have been presented sometimes have conflicting or unclear details, and committee staff has not independently verified these accounts. As a result, committee staff has limited ability to assess the scope of the concerns and the nature of the problem. In an attempt to gather more information, this bill requires the CSU, and requests of the UC, to report information on student code of conduct violations that occurred during, or as a result of, a protest on campus and a description of the discipline imposed on the student as a result of the violation, with a requirement for the student data to be disaggregated by race and gender.

SB 1287 does require information to be reported on the implementation and administration of the bill, and must specifically include information on student code of conduct violations relating to conduct that creates a hostile environment and conduct that limits the free exchange of ideas, as summarized below:

a) In UC's most recent report dated February 2026, UC reported 53 violations of codes of conduct related to the "Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other University activities"; 14 violations of codes of conduct related to "Participation in a disturbance of the peace of unlawful assembly"; and 4 violations of codes of conduct related to "Violation of the UC Anti-Discrimination Policy". UC notes that these data represent all incidents across the system and that they do not collect data on codes of conduct violations related to TPM restrictions.

b) In CSU's most recent report dated December 2025, CSU reported 201 violations that resulted in a finding of responsibility for these behaviors and noted that these violations may be duplicative, as students may have been charged for multiple violations of the CSU Code of Conduct for one case. CSU notes that these data represent all incidents across the system and that they do not collect data on codes of conduct violations related to TPM restrictions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The UC estimates one-time General Fund costs of about $100,000 to develop and implement a case management system to collect demographic data regarding student code of conduct violations. There will likely be additional, ongoing vendor maintenance costs that are unknown at this time.

The CSU estimates ongoing General Fund costs of $200,000 to $300,000 to contract with a vendor for student conduct case management. Additionally, there would be one-time General Fund costs of $75,000 to $100,000 to hold the student forum.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

1021 Jewish Workers for Justice
1021 Members for Palestine
Anti Police-Terror Project

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action California
Black Lives Matter California
California Faculty Association
Church State Council
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Jewish Parents for Collective Liberation
Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism
SEIU California
Students for Quality Education at California State University, Sacramento
University of California Student Association
Young Invincibles

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

30 Years After
Adat Shalom - Los Angeles
ADL
Agudath Israel of California
AJC Los Angeles
AJC Northern California
AJC San Diego
AMCHA Initiative
Bay Area Jewish Coalition
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Board of Rabbis of Southern California
California Jewish Democrats
California State University
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
Democrats for Israel - Los Angeles
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
Israeli-American Council
JCC-Federation of San Luis Obispo
JCRC Bay Area
JCRC of the Sacramento Region
JCRC, Jewish Long Beach
Jewish California
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Community Action Network of Orange County
Jewish Family Service LA
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of Palm Springs & the Desert
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Free Loan Association
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jewish Silicon Valley
Jews BeLong Beach Coalition
JFCS East Bay
JFCS Long Beach and Orange County
JFCS SF Bay Area
Northern California Council of Jewish Democratic Clubs
Northern California Jewish Labor Committee
Santa Barbara Hillel
StandWithUs
University of California

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/14/26 16:40:40

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2562
Author: Dixon (R)
Amended: 8/6/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Alcohol or other drug recovery and treatment programs and facilities: suicide prevention

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires certified alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs and licensed adult residential AOD treatment facilities to have suicide prevention plans.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/6/26 avoid the chaptering out of some provisions that were included in the recently enacted Health trailer bill.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Grants sole authority in the state to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to certify AOD programs and to license adult residential AOD treatment facilities (RTFs). [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §11832 and §11834.01]

2) Requires DHCS to conduct onsite program compliance visits for AOD programs and RTFs at least once during the certification or licensure period. Permits DHCS to conduct announced or unannounced site visits to review for compliance. [HSC §11832.12 and §11834.01]

3) Requires an AOD program to adopt policies and procedures, kept in an operation manual, that address and include, at a minimum, all of the following:

   a) Admission and discharge;

   b) Client rights;

   c) Services;

   d) Medications; and,

   e) Staff and client code of conduct. [HSC §11832.8.]

4) Enumerates requirements for an RTF, such as the types of nonmedical services each is authorized to provide; prohibitions on reasons for denying an individual admission to the RTF; a plan for when an RTF resident relapses; and, maintaining unexpired doses of naloxone hydrochloride, or any other opioid antagonist that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for treatment of an opioid overdose. [HSC §11834.26]

This bill:

1) Requires an AOD program to include in its operation manual and RTFs to develop a suicide prevention plan.

2) Grants DHCS the authority to implement the suicide prevention plan requirement for RTFs by bulletin, or all-county or all-provider letter, after stakeholder input, until regulations are promulgated. Requires DHCS to promulgate regulations no later than January 1, 2031.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> Patients or clients in substance use disorder (SUD/AOD) treatment settings can often suffer from suicidal ideation. Like addiction, suicide is unbiased and can impact anyone. From a study done by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, "Individuals diagnosed with SUDs are at increased risk of suicidal ideation. Up to 40% of those seeking SUD treatment have a suicide attempt history. Importantly, a previous attempt is a key predictor of future suicide." Currently, in the California Code of Regulations under Title 9 "Rehabilitative and Developmental Services," two of the four departments already require suicide prevention plans. However, DHCS currently has no requirement for such health facilities to have a suicide policy in place. This gap is an oversight in alignment across departments in the importance of holistic care for individuals in rehabilitative and developmental services. By requiring licensed treatment facilities and certified programs to have a suicide prevention plan in place, we are improving and prioritizing patient safety and ultimately, their success. This bill would add a new level of care in the promotion of emotional, mental and physical health for individuals in treatment settings.

RTFs and AOD programs. RTFs licensed by DHCS, based on what is commonly referred to as the "social model," provide recovery, treatment, or detoxification services. (The Department of Public Health licenses medical model RTFs, known as chemical dependency recovery hospitals.) The services provided by social model RTFs include group and individual counseling, educational sessions, and alcoholism or drug abuse recovery and treatment planning. Social model RTFs are allowed to provide clients first aid and emergency care, and since the passage of AB 848 (Mark Stone, Chapter 744, Statutes of 2015), RTFs can apply to DHCS for an additional license to provide incidental medical services by a licensed physician or other health care practitioner. SB 823 (Hill, Chapter 781, Statutes of 2018) requires DHCS to adopt American Society of Addiction Medicine treatment criteria as the minimum standard of care for licensed RTFs. DHCS is also responsible for certification of a business entity with a physical location in the state that provides one or more of the following services to clients: treatment, recovery, detoxification services, or medications for addiction treatment. DHCS also provides program certification for facilities that are licensed by the Department of Social Services that serve adolescents. As part of their licensing and certification functions, DHCS conducts reviews of RTFs and AOD programs every two years, or as necessary; checks for compliance with statute, regulations, and certification standards to ensure the health and safety of clients; investigates all complaints; and, has the authority to suspend or revoke a license or certification for a violation

of statutes, regulations, and certification standards. DHCS states that they have the sole authority to conduct site visits to their RTFs and AOD programs.

SUD and suicide. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, from 2014 to 2024, over half a million lives nationally (516,790) were lost to suicide, with 2022 marking the highest annual total on record. Since then, overall suicides have declined somewhat but trends diverged by method: firearm suicides continued to rise, reaching a new high in 2024. As a result, firearms accounted for 57% of all suicides in 2024, up from 50% in 2014, while suicides by other methods fell. Some of the shift may also reflect undercounting, if some suicides are recorded as unintentional drug overdose deaths. These shifts may have implications for prevention strategies including the capacity and design of crisis and treatment systems. In July 2022, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline launched nationwide, replacing the prior 10-digit number with an easier to remember, three-digit option that connects people in distress to counselors at 200+ local crisis call centers and, when needed, other crisis services. Since launch through October 2025, 988 has received more than 19 million calls, texts, or chats nationally, alongside improved answer rates and shorter wait times. However, access to mental health and SUD treatment gaps persist. In 2025, the Trump Administration discontinued the LGBTQI+ 988 call line and advanced an array of federal policy actions that could limit access to care including projected coverage loss in Medicaid and the Marketplace.

A UCLA Center for Health Policy Research brief from June 2026, "Adolescents' Substance Use, Psychological Distress, and Suicidal Thoughts and Attempts," notes that youth substance use remains common in the U.S., and many adolescents experience mental health challenges—such as anxiety, depression, and trauma—before or after trying drugs or alcohol. Early, frequent, or heavy substance use can harm brain development and worsen mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and mood instability. Adolescents with both SUD and mental health issues are at a much higher risk for suicide. Mental health conditions are strong predictors of suicidal behavior, and substance use increases this risk by reducing inhibition and judgment, and worsening depression and anxiety. Together, these factors make suicide attempts more likely and more dangerous. The brief further notes that adolescents who currently use substances are nearly twice as likely to have had serious psychological distress in the past year as adolescents who do not currently use substances (46% and 27%, respectively), and 1.5 times as likely to have had moderate psychological distress in the past year as adolescents who do not currently use substances (21% and 13%, respectively). More than a quarter (26%) of adolescents have tried at least one substance, with alcohol (21%) being the most

common, followed by marijuana/THC (11%), e-cigarettes (11%), and cigarettes (5%). Among all adolescents, 9% currently use one or more substances, most often marijuana/THC (6%), alcohol (binge drinking) (4%), or e-cigarettes (3%). Among adolescents who currently use substances, 44% reported using multiple substances. Overall, 10% of adolescents had seriously thought about or attempted suicide in the past year. Adolescents who had ever used substances (marijuana, alcohol, e-cigarettes, or cigarettes) were more than three times as likely to report suicidal thoughts and attempts as those who had never used substances (20% and 6%, respectively). Adolescents who currently use substances were nearly four times as likely to have seriously thought about or attempted suicide in the past year (28%) as those who do not use substances (8%).

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/6/26)

City of Newport Beach
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
County of Orange
One individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/6/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Orange County (OC) states it supports measures that bring more accountability to licensed RTFs in order to balance the need of those who seek recovery with the residents of the communities where these facilities are or may be located. This bill aims to protect vulnerable populations and aligns with existing practices, as many treatment providers already address suicide risk when clinically appropriate. The bill would formalize and standardize these practices across providers, which will help ensure consistency and provide clearer guidance for staff. OC further argues that establishing a required suicide prevention plan may also build on existing approaches used in treatment settings, similar to relapse prevention and other risk mitigation strategies.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra,

Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Jackson, Lee, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers

Prepared by: Reyes Diaz / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/10/26 17:31:24

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2563
Author: Pacheco (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 9-2, 6/16/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Wiener
NOES: Niello, Valladares
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-17, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Sex discrimination: scope

SOURCE: California Women's Law Center
Feminist Majority

DIGEST: This bill clarifies that "sex," as used within California antidiscrimination laws, includes gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy and related conditions, and other specified traits or conditions.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 add contingent enactment language and add a co-author.

ANALYSIS:

Existing constitutional law:

1) Provides for equal protection under the law as follows:

   a) Under the United States Constitution, provides that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. (U.S. Constitution, 14th Amend., § 1.)

b) Under the California Constitution, provides that a person may not be denied the equal protection of the laws, and that a citizen or class of citizens may not be granted privileges or immunities not granted on the same terms to all citizens. (California Constitution (Cal. Const.), Article (art.) I, § 7.)

2) Provides that the State shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 31.)

Existing state law:

1) Provides, pursuant to the Unruh Civil Rights Act, that all persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status, are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever. (Civil (Civ.) Code, § 51(a).)

2) Provides that "sex," for purposes of 1), includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, or medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth; or a person's gender, which means sex, and includes a person's gender identity and gender expression. "Gender expression" means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth. (Civ. Code, § 51(e)(6).)

3) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes, or immigration status in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives, or benefits from, state financial assistance, or enrolls pupils who receive state financial assistance. (Education (Ed.) Code, § 220.)

4) Defines the following for purposes of 5):

a) "Gender" means sex and includes a person's gender identity and gender expression.

b) "Gender expression" means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior, whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth. (Ed. Code, § 210.7.)

5) Establishes the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), which prohibits the following:

   a) Specified acts of discrimination in employment on the basis of the race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, reproductive health decision-making, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or veteran or military status of any person. (Government (Gov.) Code, § 12940.)

   b) Specified acts of discrimination in connection with housing on the basis of the person's race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, source of income, disability, veteran or military status, or genetic information. (Gov. Code, § 12955.)

6) Provides that "sex," for purposes of 7), includes, but is not limited to:

   a) Pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding, or medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

   b) A person's gender, which means sex, and includes a person's gender expression; "gender expression" means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

7) Establishes other prohibitions on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, and/or gender expression throughout the Codes. (*See generally* California Codes.)

This bill:

1) States that the Legislature finds and declares that this bill is existing law and is not intended to expand or contract any existing rights or responsibilities.

2) States that any provision that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, discrimination on the basis of gender, or similar discrimination shall also be interpreted as prohibiting sex discrimination, as defined in 4).

3) States that, in the event of a conflict between the provisions of 2) and other provisions of the relevant Code that set forth the scope of sex discrimination, gender discrimination, or similar discrimination, the provisions that would result in greater protections of individuals based on sex, gender, or similar

discrimination shall prevail; and that these provisions shall not be construed to impair or diminish any other civil rights protection that is broader in scope.

4) Provides that, for purposes of 2) and 3), the following definitions apply:

   a) "Discrimination" includes, but is not limited to, harassment.

   b) "Pregnancy or related medical conditions" includes, but is not limited to, childbirth, abortion, lactation, miscarriage, fertility, and contraception.

   c) "Sex discrimination" includes, but is not limited to, discrimination on the basis of any of the following actual or perceived characteristics:

      i) Assigned sex or gender category, including female, male, or nonbinary.

      ii) Degree of conformity to sex or gender stereotypes.

      iii) Gender, including gender identity, gender expression, and access to, and use of, gender affirming care and other related health care.

      iv) Pregnancy or other related medical conditions.

      v) Decision-making, access to care, or potential or actual use of a drug, device, product, or service relating to pregnancy or related medical conditions.

      vi) Sexual orientation.

      vii) Variations in sex characteristics, including intersex traits or differences in sex development.

5) Provides that 2)-4) reflects the existing protections of the California Constitution recognizing the individual rights to pursue and obtain safety, happiness, and privacy, ensuring equal protection of the laws, protecting the ability to enter or pursue a business, profession, vocation, or employment, and protecting an individual's reproductive freedom, and that these provisions shall be construed liberally to effectuate the purposes of these constitutional protections.

6) Adds the language in 2)-5) to each of the Codes.

7) Adds, to the Unruh Act and the FEHA, specific references within the definitions to the clarifying sections added to their respective Codes pursuant to 6).

Comments

In 2022, the Legislature enacted SCR 92 (Leyva, Chapter 150, Statutes of 2022), which instructed the California Law Revision Commission to determine whether California's antidiscrimination laws might conflict with the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), so that the state would be prepared if the ERA was actually added to the United States Constitution. The CLRC's 2025 report found that California law already complies with a potential ERA. The CLRC also found, however, that the specific definitions of "sex" within California's various antidiscrimination statutes are inconsistent, and while California's most significant antidiscrimination statutes define "sex" broadly, the broad definition is not clearly employed across the Codes.

This bill adopts the CRLC's proposed solution to clarify that "sex" has a consistent meaning throughout the state's antidiscrimination statutes, by adopting, within each Code, a provision clarifying the definition of "sex." The uniform definition provided by this bill accords with what is already in existing laws such as the Unruh Civil Rights Act, certain provisions of the Education Code, and the FEHA, and is intended to clarify the scope of all California antidiscrimination laws, not expand existing law. The bill also provides that, in the event that an existing provision of law conflicts with the uniform definition, the definition that results in greater protections against discrimination should prevail.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Women's Law Center (co-source)
Feminist Majority (co-source)
Alameda County Office of Education
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
California Teachers Association
LGBTQ+ Inclusivity, Visibility, and Empowerment
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

CAUSE
Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender
Our Duty
Two individuals

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the California Women's Law Center and Feminist Majority:

California has long been a national leader in advancing gender equity, with strong constitutional and statutory protections against sex discrimination. However, inconsistencies in how "sex" and "sex discrimination" are defined and interpreted across different areas of state law can create gaps in protection, limit enforcement, and leave individuals vulnerable to discrimination.

AB 2563 addresses this issue by establishing a clear, minimum standard across California law. The bill requires that all provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or gender be interpreted to prohibit sex discrimination and defines sex discrimination to include a broad range of actual or perceived characteristics, including gender identity and expression, pregnancy and related medical conditions, reproductive health decision-making, and conformity to gender stereotypes.

By aligning statutory interpretation with California's constitutional guarantees of equal protection, privacy, and reproductive freedom, AB 2563 strengthens existing civil rights protections and ensures they are applied broadly and as intended. This clarification is critical to protecting individuals from discrimination across employment, housing, education, healthcare, and public accommodations.

At a time when rights related to gender, identity, basic needs, and reproductive autonomy are increasingly contested nationwide, AB 2563 reaffirms California's commitment to ensuring that all individuals can live, work, and access services free from discrimination.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: According to CAUSE:

Women are not women due to "identity." Women are women because our sex is determined to be female at conception. Female development in the womb and through puberty results in a body organized around the production of large, immobile egg cells- gametes- called ova in humans. Human females develop to carry our young in our uterus, give birth to our young through our cervix and vagina, and to nourish our young at our breasts, all female specific, necessary roles in human reproduction. Humans share this same reproductive process with every other mammalian species that exists or ever existed (even, in most aspects, monotremes-primitive egg-laying mammals that nurse their young.)

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-17, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Wallis

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/24/26 12:12:23

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2564
Author: Ward (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 5-2, 6/22/26
AYES: Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Wiener
NOES: Jones, Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon, Umberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-21, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Surveillance pricing

SOURCE: California Federation of Labor Unions
Consumer Reports
TechEquity Action

DIGEST: This bill prohibits "surveillance pricing," as defined, except as provided.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 remove references to "electronic surveillance technology," add a series of additional exemptions from the bill, loosen some disclosure requirements, and clarify its interaction with other laws.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/17/26 refine the definition of "surveillance pricing" and reframe and expand the exclusions therefrom.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict

the sale of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.100 et seq.)

2) Provides that the secret payment of allowances of rebates, refunds, commissions, or unearned discounts, whether in the form of money or otherwise, or secretly extending to certain purchasers special services or privileges not extended to all purchasers upon like terms and conditions, to the injury of a competitor and where such payment or allowance tends to destroy competition, is unlawful. (Business (Bus.) & Professions (Prof.) Code § 17045.)

3) Establishes a general prohibition on unfair competition, known as the Unfair Competition Law (UCL), which covers any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising, and any act prohibited under the False Advertising Law. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.)

This bill:

1) Prohibits retailers from engaging in "surveillance pricing."

2) Defines "surveillance pricing" as either of the following:

   a) Offering or setting a customized price for a good if for a specific consumer or group of consumers, based, in whole or in part, on personally identifiable information, including personally identifiable information that is gathered, purchased, or otherwise acquired from a third party. The price must be determined, at least in part, through the use of any technology or computational process that uses statistical modeling, data analytics, AI, or other data processing techniques.

   b) Random variations in prices to different consumers using a website, mobile application, or comparable online technology.

3) Provides that a retailer does not engage in surveillance pricing by doing any of the following:

   a) Offering a customized discounted price to a consumer who is terminating or taking steps to terminate a subscription or membership with the retailer.

b) Offering a customized discounted price to reestablish a consumer as a member, rewards program, or subscription enrollee if the retailer can demonstrate specified conditions.

c) Offering a customized discounted price on a specific good to a consumer based on the consumer's prior purchase history if the retailer can demonstrate specified conditions.

d) Offering a customized discounted price on a specific good to a consumer based on the consumer's saved goods if the retailer can demonstrate specified conditions.

e) Offering a customized discounted price to a consumer who is a first-time visitor to a retailer's website or application if the retailer can demonstrate specified conditions.

f) Offering a customized discounted price to a consumer for items the consumer has left in their online shopping cart if the retailer can demonstrate specified conditions.

g) Offering a customized discounted price on equal terms if all of the following apply:

    i) The customized discounted price is offered to any of the following groups of consumers:

        (1) Consumers who affirmatively purchase or enroll in a loyalty, membership, or rewards program.

        (2) Consumers who belong to a broadly defined group, as specified.

        (3) Consumers who meet eligibility criteria, as specified.

    ii) If the retailer exclusively offers a customized discounted price in stores, the current eligibility criteria, available customized discounted prices, and any conditions for receiving or earning the customized discounted price are clearly and conspicuously disclosed in all stores where the discount is available, as provided.

    iii) If the retailer offers a customized discounted price online, the current eligibility criteria, available customized discounted prices, and any conditions for receiving or earning the customized discounted price are clearly and conspicuously disclosed on the retailer's website while the

customized discounted price is offered. Disclosure is not required when the customized price is offered through a third-party promotional program, as provided.

iv) The customized discounted price is made available on equal terms to all consumers who meet the disclosed eligibility criteria.

h) Setting a price or specific terms to extend credit, refusing to extend credit on specific terms, or refusing to enter into a transaction with a specific consumer or commercial enterprise, if the retailer is acting based on information contained in a consumer or commercial credit report, as provided.

4) Defines the relevant terms.

5) Makes any waiver void and unenforceable.

6) Finds and declares that it furthers the purposes of the California Privacy Rights Act.

Comments

Companies regularly and systematically collect, analyze, share, and sell the personal information of consumers. While this data collection can provide consumers various benefits, public fears about the widespread, unregulated amassing of personal information have only grown since privacy was made a part of California's Constitution. One particularly troubling area of this systematic data collection is utilization of this information to engage in differential pricing for consumers based on various elements of that information.

This bill prohibits this practice of "surveillance pricing," defined as offering or setting a customized price for a good for a specific consumer or group of consumers, based, in whole or in part, on personally identifiable information, including personally identifiable information that is gathered, purchased, or otherwise acquired from a third party. This bill provides that a retailer does not engage in surveillance pricing if a customized discount price is offered under a series of specified circumstances.

It should be noted that several other states are also taking action to combat surveillance pricing. Legislation has been introduced and passed through legislatures in four other states. This increased movement toward regulating this

practice is driven in part by polling that suggests consumers find surveillance pricing "fundamentally unfair" and support bans.[1]

For a more thorough overview, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis of this bill, which is incorporated herein by reference.

This bill is sponsored by Consumer Reports, TechEquity, and the California Federation of Labor Unions. It is supported by a wide array of labor, advocacy, and low-income services groups, including the Western Center on Law and Poverty, Equal Rights Advocates, and LGBT Tech. It is opposed by various industry groups, including TechNet and Chamber of Progress.

According to the author, "With the rise of artificial intelligence and data collection, businesses increasingly use personal data to set prices, often leading to unfair and discriminatory pricing practices. This legislation aims to establish safeguards that ensure transparency, fairness, and consumer protections in pricing algorithms. AB 2564 will prohibit the practice of surveillance pricing by making it unlawful for businesses to use personal data when charging different prices for the same product or service, whether online or during in-store checkout."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/17/26)
California Federation of Labor Unions (co-source)
Consumer Reports (co-source)
TechEquity Action (co-source)
ACLU Cal Action
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Action
American Federation of Musicians, Local 7
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Buen Vecino
California Food and Farming Network
California Nurses Association
California School Employees Association
California Work and Family Coalition
Cameo Network

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[1] *Strong Majority of Americans Want Corporations to End Deceptive Surveillance Pricing Schemes* (May 21, 2026) Groundwork Collaborative, **https://groundworkcollaborative.org/news/strong-majority-of-americans-want-corporations-to-end-deceptive-surveillance-pricing-schemes/**. All internet citations are current as of August 18, 2026.

Center for AI and Digital Policy
Center for Democracy and Technology
Center on Policy Initiatives
CFT- a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Federation of California
Consumer Watchdog
Courage California
Economic Security California Action
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Electronic Privacy Information Center
End Child Poverty California Powered by Grace
Equal Rights Advocates
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Greenlining Institute
Indivisible Ca: Statestrong
Institute for Local Self-reliance
Justice2jobs Coalition
Kapor Center Advocacy
LA Defensa
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
LGBT Tech
Nextgen California
Oakland Privacy
Parent Voices California
Privacy Defense Alliance
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Public Law Center
Secure Justice
SEIU California
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Smart - Transportation Division
Tech Oversight California
Techtonic Justice
UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
Ultraviolet Action
Western Center on Law & Poverty
1 Individual

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/17/26)

Association of National Advertisers
Building Owners and Managers Association of California
CalBroadband
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Fuels and Convenience Alliance
California Grocers Association
California Restaurant Association
California Retailers Association
Chamber of Progress
Civil Justice Association of California
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
Internet.works
NAIOP California
Orange County Business Council
Technet
USTelecom - the Broadband Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: A coalition of legal services organizations, labor associations, civil rights organizations, and consumer, privacy, and family advocacy groups, including SEIU California write:

> California consumers face a new and growing threat to fair pricing. Companies now possess the technology to collect vast amounts of consumer data and deploy artificial intelligence to charge each shopper a personalized price — one calibrated not to the market, but to the maximum that an individual can be made to pay. This practice, known as surveillance pricing, exploits detailed consumer profiles built from purchase histories, location data, browsing habits, and more.
>
> Investigations have already uncovered real-world harms. Consumer Reports revealed that Kroger built 60-plus page profiles for individual consumers from loyalty program data to infer willingness to pay. … A SFGate investigation found that the most popular hotel booking sites show prices substantially higher to San Franciscans using their online booking platforms compared with users browsing from less affluent cities, like Phoenix and

Kansas City. These are not isolated incidents — they reflect an industry trend. …

While California consumers benefit from some privacy protections under the California Consumer Privacy Act, no existing federal or state law prohibits companies from using the data they collect to charge consumers individually different prices. AB 2564 closes this gap. Without legislative intervention, surveillance pricing will become the industry standard, disproportionately harming lower-income Californians who already face the highest costs of living in the nation and have the fewest alternatives.

AB 2564 protects sensible, transparently offered discounts—including for loyalty programs. The bill's exemptions permit a vast array of discounts, and transparency provisions help ensure that discounts are not secretly discriminatory. The bill does not restrict businesses from offering lower prices — it prevents them from secretly charging higher ones based on personal data profiles.

The right to fair and affordable pricing should not be a privilege for the few but a fundamental protection for all Californians.[2]

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: A coalition led by the California Chamber of Commerce asserts:

AB 2564 prohibits "surveillance pricing," which it loosely defines as "offering or setting a customized price for a good or service[3] for a specific consumer or group of consumers, based, in whole or in part, on personally identifiable information collected through electronic surveillance technology..."

Notably, "electronic surveillance technology" is not actually defined in AB 2564. Instead, the bill only provides a list of examples that are "included," but no description that would help a covered entity determine if the bill applied to the consumer information in their possession. A metaphor helps

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[2] *See Consumer Reports Investigation Uncovers Kroger's Widespread Data Collection* (May 21, 2025) Consumer Reports, **https://www.consumerreports.org/media-room/press-releases/2025/05/consumer-reports-investigation-uncovers-krogers-widespread-data-collection-of-loyalty-program-members-to-create-secret-shopper-profiles/**; Keith A. Spencer, *Hotel booking sites show higher prices to travelers from Bay Area* (February 3, 2025) SFGate, **https://www.sfgate.com/travel/article/hotel-booking-sites-overcharge-bay-area-travelers-20025145.php**.

[3] The definition in the bill does not include "services."

illustrate the problem with definitions that only say what they "include." Imagine trying to define what is a "pet" - but the only definition is "Pets includes dogs or cats." Such a definition provides no helpful guidance for anything not listed, such as bird or fish. Are those "pets?" Without a descriptive definition, it is impossible to know. Under AB 2564, the term "electronic surveillance technology" has the same problem – the definition does not describe what makes something an electronic surveillance technology. Instead, it only provides examples. Without a descriptive definition, employers will be left guessing what technologies are or are not covered by the bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 42-21, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pellerin, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Ávila Farías, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Calderon, Carrillo, Gipson, Irwin, Krell, McKinnor, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Solache, Soria

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 10:59:21

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2573
Author: Sharp-Collins (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Voter registration information: confidentiality

SOURCE: Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

DIGEST: This bill modifies the program that makes confidential an elected official's or a candidate's voter registration record.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 redact a voter's entire registration record, unless certain conditions are met, when enrolled in programs where a voter's registration record is made confidential.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines "elected official or candidate" as a federal, state, or local elected official or a candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office.

2) Requires an elected official or candidate to have their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration be made confidential, unless the elected official or candidate opts-out.

3) Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to provide to each county elections official a list identifying elected officials and candidates residing in each respective county when a person files nomination papers for an elected federal or state office.

4) Requires the county elections official to add the individual's name to a list identifying elected officials and candidates residing in that county when a person files nomination papers for an elected local office. The county elections official must periodically update the list for each election cycle. Within five business days of receipt of the list from the SOS or within five business days of the filing of nomination papers with the county elections official, the county elections official must make confidential that elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.

5) Requires the county elections official, in producing any list, roster, or index, to exclude voters with a confidential voter status. An elected official or candidate must apply for confidential voter status within 60 days of moving to a new county, if available in the new county. The elections official of the new county, upon notice of the confidential voter moving into the county, must (1) contact the confidential voter and provide information regarding the application for confidential voter status in the new county, (2) honor the confidential voter status from the former county for 60 days from the date of notice, (3) exclude the confidential voter in any list, roster, or index during the 60-day period, and (4) remove the confidential voter status if the new voter has not obtained or cannot obtain confidential voter status in the new county during the 60-day period.

6) Requires an elected official or candidate to contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential. County election officials must make the elected official's information confidential when contacted by the elected official or candidate.

7) Provides an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address must remain confidential until the official no longer holds the office or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.

8) Provides a county or county elections official is not liable for taking or failing to take the action when the county or county elections official has received erroneous information from the SOS.

9) Provides an action in negligence is not maintained against any government entity or officer or employee thereof as a result of the disclosure of specified information, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

10) Provides when a notification is received from an elected official or candidate about a request to opt-out of confidential voter status, the county elections official must remove the confidential designation from the individual's voter registration record within five business days and notify the SOS and any other relevant local election officials of the decision to opt-out within five business days of processing the request.

11) Provides an elected official who opts-out may reapply for confidential voter status at any time while serving in or running for office, and confidential voter status must be reinstated upon receipt of the request.

12) Provides, notwithstanding any other law, an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential may be disclosed only for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes using a specified process. The county elections official must retain records of all requests for, and disclosures of, a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes. The county elections official may reject a request that does not clearly adhere to specified requirements.

This bill:

1) Changes the ability for an elected official or candidate to have their voter registration record from the individual's affidavit of registration made confidential from an opt-out to an opt-in process. An elected official or candidate must submit a written request for confidential voter status to the county elections official.

2) Defines "election official or candidate" as a federal, state, or local elected official or candidate who has qualified to appear on the ballot for a federal, state, or local office. This definition does not include a member of a political party's county central committee or a candidate for that office.

3) Permits the voter registration record of an elected official's immediate family member be included in a written request for confidentiality, if the immediate family member is named in the request and the request is accompanied by a statement from the immediate family member confirming they want confidential voter status and understand the ramifications of being made

confidential. "Immediate family member" is an elected official's spouse, domestic partner, parent, or child who lives at the same residence.

4) Provides, upon a written request for confidentiality, the county elections official must make the information confidential. The elections official must provide written notice to the household of the election official or candidate that persons whose information would be confidential would lose their ability to vote a nonprovisional ballot in person at a polling location.

5) Provides that the exclusion of voters with confidential voter status on any roster, voter list, or index produced by a county elections official applies to the voter's entire voter registration, including voting history and voter registration information before the voter became a voter with confidential voter status. In addition to rosters, voter lists, or indexes, any other list created by an elections official, these lists must not include any confidential information of the elected official or candidate.

6) Requires an elected official's information remain confidential until two years after the official leaves office. For candidates, the information remains confidential until the completion of the canvass for which the candidate was listed on the ballot. Candidates in a local special election must remain confidential until the vote for the special election has been certified by the local elections official.

7) Provides that a candidate who opts into confidential voter status and is elected to the office automatically retains confidential voter status after being sworn into office.

8) Requires the county elections official to determine and identify the federal, state, and local elected officials residing in their county.

9) Removes the 60-day timeframe for when an elected official or candidate must apply for confidential voter status when moving to a new county and the requirement for an elections official to make an elected official's or candidate's information confidential. Instead, the elections official must make the information confidential upon request by the elected official or candidate.

10) Permits an elected official to opt-out of and re-enroll in confidential voter status at any time while serving in the official's current office or while running for another office. A candidate who opts-out may re-enroll in confidential voter status while as a candidate during the candidate's eligibility period for confidential voter status.

11) Requires county election officials to notify the SOS on a form prescribed by the SOS when a county elections official adds or removes the confidential designation to a federal or state elected official's voter registration record.

12) Requires the county elections official to notify an elected official at least 60 days before removing the confidential designation from a federal, state, or local elected official's voter registration record.

13) Provides an elected official or candidate who opts-out of confidential voter status consents to the placement of their voter registration record in the roster of voters.

14) Provides the SOS and county election officials implement the remaining provisions of existing law, as it relates to confidential voter statuses and the provisions of this bill, immediately once the statewide voter registration database and county election management systems have made conforming changes.

15) Provides, for elections through December 31, 2028, county election officials may make best efforts to manually implement the provisions of existing law as it relates to confidential voter statuses and the provisions of this bill to the maximum degree possible before the completion of conforming changes to the statewide voter registration database and their own county election management systems. This is not to be construed to authorize any reduction in current, ongoing implementation efforts.

16) Provides that the confidential voter program does not override and cannot revoke confidentiality ordered by a county or confidentiality granted by another specified program.

17) Requires, notwithstanding any other law and no later than September 30, 2027, the SOS, in consultation with county election officials, to develop and implement a process that permits a person with confidential voter status to vote at a polling place or vote center and retain confidential voter status. The SOS may adopt regulations to ensure compliance and uniformity with the developed procedure.

18) Makes corresponding changes to other confidential voter programs for confidential voter status to apply to a voter's registration record unless certain conditions are met.

Background

Voter Registration Information. Under existing law, all voter registration information is confidential, except in specified circumstances. These circumstances include the release of voter registration records for approved election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes. A voter's driver's license number, ID number, partial Social Security number, and signature are not disclosed under these provisions.

To access permitted information, individuals or organizations must apply to the SOS or a county elections official, provide specific identifying information, the specific information requested, and include a statement of the intended use of the information. The elections official verifies the applicant's identity before providing any information and completed applications must be retained by the elections official for five years.

In certain situations, state law provides a higher level of confidentiality for voter registration records, prohibiting the release of a voter's residence address, phone number, and email address even for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes. Individuals enrolled in California's Safe at Home program, which includes two address confidentiality programs for those at higher risk of threats or violence, are eligible for these protections. Additionally, a voter may request a court to declare their address and contact information confidential, if they can show that a life-threatening circumstance exists for the voter or a household member. Similar protections are also available to public safety officers and individuals who perform election-related work for state or county election officials who attest to such threats affecting them or their families.

Assembly Bill 1392 (Sharp-Collins). In response to increasing threats against public officials, including the shooting of two Minnesota legislators and their spouses in June of 2025, the Legislature approved and Governor Newsom signed AB 1392 (Sharp-Collins, Chapter 300, Statutes of 2025) making the voter registration records of elected officials and candidates for elective office confidential. The bill was largely structured as an "opt-out" program and eligible individuals are added to the program automatically unless they opt-out.

Comments

Author's Statement. As counties began administering the program, elections officials identified areas where additional statutory clarity was needed around eligibility, procedures, and timelines. At a time when threats and harassment

against public officials are increasing nationwide, it is critical that the protections authorized by the Legislature work as intended.

Definition of Immediate Family Member. This bill defines "immediate family member" as an elected official's, but not a candidate's, spouse, domestic partner, parent, or child who lives at the same residence. This bill permits an elected official's immediate family, with the consent from each family member, living at the residence to have their voter registration made confidential. It is possible a family member outside of the definition prescribed by this bill lives at the elected official's residence, such as an in-law or grandparent. This may create a situation where someone could still find an elected official's residence through another family member.

Definition of "Elected Official or Candidate." This bill redefines "elected official or candidate" as a federal, state, or local elected official or a candidate who has qualified to appear on the ballot for an elected federal, state, or local office. While this includes the vast majority of candidates, write-in candidates would no longer be included because they do not appear on a ballot. There are circumstances where a write-in would appear on a future ballot, such as in a two-top election, where the candidate would receive confidential voter status, but that would only happen after the candidate qualifies to appear on a ballot instead of qualifying as a candidate.

What Happens to the Current Program? Elected officials and candidates are currently enrolled in this confidential voter status program unless the individual opts-out. This bill changes the system from an opt-out to an opt-in system. It is unclear what happens to the individuals currently enrolled in the program when this bill takes effect because individuals currently enrolled in the program may not have taken the action required by this bill to opt-in. Coordination between the SOS and county elections officials is important to ensure there is a uniform and consistent transition for elected officials and candidates currently with confidential voter status to learn about the changes this bill prescribed should this bill become chaptered.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

- The SOS would incur one-time General Fund costs of $134,000 modify (1) VoteCal, the statewide voter registration database system, and (2) the Election Management System, to ensure data synchronization between the two platforms needed to implement this bill's information sharing procedures with counties. SOS would incur unknown one-time costs,

potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, to develop the process permits a person with confidential voter status to vote at a polling place or vote center and retain confidential voter status.

- By requiring counties to comply with this bill's information sharing procedures, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, counties could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but could exceed $50,000 per year (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. (source)
California Special District Association
CFT – A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/24/26 11:16:23

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2575
Author: Ortega (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 8-2, 6/17/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Smallwood-Cuevas
NOES: Valladares, Grove
NO VOTE RECORDED: Rubio

SENATE LABOR, PUB. EMP. & RET. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Smallwood-Cuevas, Cortese, Durazo, Laird
NOES: Strickland

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 6-2, 6/29/26
AYES: Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto, Ochoa Bogh
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 48-15, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Health care services: artificial intelligence

SOURCE: California Nurses Association
California Federation of Labor Unions

DIGEST: This bill requires a health facility and other health providers that use or deploy a clinical decision support system for patient care to make information about these systems available to any licensed health care professional or other

person that views outputs from a clinical decision support system. Prohibits an employer from retaliating or discriminating against a worker based solely on the worker's override of, or reliance on, the output of a clinical decision support system. Prohibits the failure of a health care worker to override an output of a clinical decision support system from being asserted as a superseding cause severing the defendant's liability for the alleged harm in a civil action against a defendant who developed or deployed a clinical decision support system that is alleged to have caused harm.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 move provisions out of CDPH's jurisdiction and instead to the Business and Professions Code, and align the definition of Clinical Decision Support Systems with other bills.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 permit a health provider to satisfy the requirements relating to making information available about a clinical decision support system by using information supplied by the vendor, limit the enforcement of the information disclosure provisions to whether the information has been provided rather than the accuracy of the information, and exclude a policy that requires a worker to accept, defer to, or refrain from overriding the output of a clinical decision support system from being considered a duty that a health care employer can enforce without it being considered retaliation or discrimination.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires a health facility, clinic, physician's office, or office of a group practice that uses generative artificial intelligence (AI) to generate written or verbal patient communications pertaining to patient clinical information to ensure that those communications include a disclaimer, as specified, that indicates to the patient that the communication was generated by generative AI, and clear instructions describing how a patient may contact a human health care provider, employee, or other appropriate person. Exempts communications generated by generative AI from this requirement if it is read and reviewed by a human licensed or certified health care provider. [Health and Safety Code §1339.75]

2) Defines the following terms for purposes of 1) above:
   a) "Artificial intelligence" means an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments; and,

b) "Generative artificial intelligence" means AI that can generate derived synthetic content, including images, videos, audio, text, and other digital content.

3) Requires the Department of Technology to conduct, in coordination with other interagency bodies as it deems appropriate, a comprehensive inventory of all high-risk automated decision systems that have been proposed for use, development, or procurement by, or are being used, developed, or procured by, and state agency. Defines "high-risk automated decision system" as an automated decision system that is used to assist or replace human discretionary decisions that have a legal or similarly significant effect, including decisions that materially impact access to, or approval for, housing or accommodations, education, employment, credit, health care, and criminal justice. [Government Code §11546.45.5]

This bill:

1) Defines "artificial intelligence" and "generative artificial intelligence" as having the same meaning as definitions described in Existing Law 5) above.

2) Defines "automated decision system" as a computational process derived from machine learning, statistical modeling, data analytics, or AI that issues simplified output, including a score, classification, or recommendation, that is used to assist or replace human discretionary decision-making and materially impacts natural persons. Excludes from this definition a spam email filter, firewall, antivirus software, identify and access management tools, calculator, database, dataset, or other compilation of data.

3) Defines "clinical decision support system" as an artificial intelligence system that produces a prediction, classification, recommendation, evaluation, or analysis that aids clinical decisionmaking related to timing of care, diagnosis or treatment. Specifies that it does include booking, canceling, and rescheduling appointments, appointment reminders, patient education and previsit materials and preparation, and payment processing, to the extent the independent performance of these activities by the system does not require a professional license.

4) Requires, on or before July 1, 2027, a health facility, clinic, physician's office, or office of a group practice that uses or deploys a clinical decision support system for patient care to make available, upon request from a person using a clinical decision support system, an inventory of all clinical decision support systems currently in use, and requires this inventory to be updated annually.

5) Requires, on or before July 1, 2027, a health facility, clinic, physician's office, or office of a group practice to make available, upon request from a person using a clinical decision support system, information about the system, including all of the following:
   a) A summary of the clinical decision support system, including developer and description of the output produced by the system;
   b) Intended use of the clinical decision support system, including intended patient population, intended users, and intended role in supporting clinical decisionmaking;
   c) Cautioned out-of-scope use of the clinical decision support system, including known risks and limitations;
   d) Summary of how the clinical decision support system generates outputs;
   e) Summary of the training set or clinical research underlying recommendations, including demographic representativeness and known biases based on protected characteristics;
   f) Summary of the validation process;
   g) Summary of quantitative measures of performance; and,
   h) A link to the Certified Health IT Product List produced by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

6) Permits a health facility, clinic, physician's office, or office of a group practice to satisfy the requirement in 5) above by providing information supplied by the developer or vendor, if that information is accompanied by the developer's written attestation as to the accuracy of that information.

7) Requires, on or before July 1, 2027, a health facility, clinic, physician's office, or office of a group practice to notify a person whose duties including using a clinical decision support system, upon hire and annually, of their right to request the inventory of all clinical decision support systems currently in use.

8) Exempts from the written notice requirements the use of a clinical decision support system for documentation, communication, or other administrative tasks that do not involve the application of professional judgment by a licensed health care professional, including, but not limited to, automated messages to inform patients of their health records.

9) Specifies that a violation of the notice and disclosure requirements by a physician is subject to the jurisdiction of the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, as appropriate.

10) Provides that it is the public policy of the State of California that a worker providing direct patient care be free to use their professional judgment to make assessments and decisions within their scope of practice as appropriate for their patients.

11) Prohibits an employer from retaliating or discriminating against a worker providing direct patient care using their professional judgment to make an assessment or decision within their appropriate scope of practice based solely on the worker's override of, or reliance on, the output of a clinical decision support system.

12) Specifies that the protection in 11) above against employer retaliation or discrimination does not affect a worker's duty do any of the following:
   a) Meet the applicable standard of care;
   b) Act within their scope of practice;
   c) Exercise independent judgment in providing direct patient care;
   d) Follow standard operating procedures or other policies established by the employer or by a California governmental department; or,
   e) Comply with regulations governing the planning and implementation of patient care.

13) Excludes a policy, procedure, or protocol that requires a worker to accept, defer to, or refrain from overriding the output of a clinical decision support system, from being considered a duty for purposes of 15) above.

14) Requires a worker who is subject to retaliation or discrimination in violation of this bill to have the right to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner against an employer who retaliates or discriminates against the worker.

15) Requires the Labor Commission to enforce the anti-retaliation and discrimination provisions of this bill, including investigating an alleged violation, ordering appropriate temporary relief to mitigate a violation or maintain the status quo pending the completion of a full investigation or hearing, issuing a citation to an employer, and filing a civil action.

16) Requires the Labor Commissioner to determine whether an employer retaliated or discriminated against a worker, and to consider evidence relevant to the reasons the employer took the action alleged to be retaliation or discrimination, including evidence supporting the alternate reasons for the action, such as an alleged failure by the worker to satisfy a duty described in 12) above.

17) Specifies that the Labor Commissioner is not required to adjudicate or make a final determination of whether a worker met or failed to meet a duty described in 12) above. Specifies that a determination under these provisions is not determinative of any legal action for professional negligence or malpractice or disciplinary action against a professional license, and these provisions do not limit the authority of an appropriate licensing authority or a court.

18) Prohibits using as a defense, in an action against a defendant who developed, modified, selected, or deployed a clinical decision support system that is alleged to have caused harm to the plaintiff, and prohibits a defendant from asserting, that the failure of a licensed health care professional or other health care worker to override an output of a clinical decision support system is a superseding cause severing the defendant's liability for the alleged harm.

19) Specifies that the provision in 17) above does not limit or preclude a defendant from presenting any other affirmative defense, including evidence relevant to causation or foreseeability, or presenting other evidence relevant to the comparative fault of any other person or entity, including evidence that the defendant took reasonable precautions to prevent harm, as specified.

20) Specifies that the provision in 17) above does not apply to an action for injury or death against a licensed health care provider based upon professional negligence, as specified.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> Healthcare workers are facing new challenges as AI is integrated into their workplaces. They are pressured by employers to defer to AI systems that may be opaque, erroneous, or systemically biased. They face an added risk of professional and legal blame when they follow algorithmic recommendations that fail. This bill preserves healthcare workers' ability to follow their professional judgment by prohibiting employer retaliation when a worker overrides or follows a recommendation. This bill requires transparency for AI tools so that providers understand how they work and what the risks are. Overall, this bill requires that AI tools are used to support clinical judgement—not replace it, ensuring that human expertise and patient safety remain the focus of California's healthcare system.

Generative AI in health care. According to a July 25, 2023 viewpoint article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, "Generative AI in Health Care and

Liability Risks for Physicians and Safety Concerns for Patients," generative AI is being heralded in the medical field for its potential to ease the long-lamented burden of medical documentation by generating visit notes, treatment codes, and medical summaries. This article stated that to date, no court in the U.S. has considered the question of liability for medical injuries caused by relying on AI-generated information. The article warned that to minimize risks, even medical professionals must exercise caution when relying on AI-generated information, due to the "black-box" nature of how these systems generate output, because it may be impossible for the physician to independently evaluate the accuracy of the AI's output. An article in *Implement Science*, published in March 2024, stated that the utility and impact of generative AI in healthcare remain poorly understood, with concerns about ethical and legal implications, integration into healthcare service delivery, and workforce utilization. The American Medical Association (AMA) published "Principles for Augmented Intelligence Development, Deployment, and Use," which was approved by the AMA Board of Trustees on November 14, 2023. According to this AMA document, as the number of AI-enabled health care tools and systems continue to grow, these technologies must be designed, developed, and deployed in a manner that is ethical, equitable, responsible, and transparent. The AMA notes that while the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates AI-enabled medical devices, many types of AI-enabled technologies fall outside the scope of FDA oversight, including AI that may have clinical applications, such as some clinical decision support functions. The AMA report specifically looked at transparency in use of AI-enabled systems, and stated that it is essential that use of AI in health care be transparent to both physicians and patients, and disclosure should contribute to physician and patient knowledge and not create unnecessary administrative burden. The AMA report states that when AI is utilized in health care decision-making, that use should be disclosed and documented in order to limit risks to, and mitigate inequities for, both physicians and patients. The AMA noted that while transparency does not necessarily ensure AI-enabled tools are accurate, secure, or fair, it is difficult to establish trust if certain characteristics are hidden. According to the AMA, when AI is used in a manner which directly impacts patient care, access to care, or medical decision-making, that use of AI should be disclosed and documented to both physicians and patients. The opportunity for a patient to request additional review from a licensed clinician should be made available upon request. The AMA policy also states that AI tools or systems cannot augment, create, or otherwise generate records, communications, or other content on behalf of a physician without that physician's consent and final review.

Disclosure requirements at least partially based on federal standards for health information technology developers. The author and sponsors have pointed to standards adopted by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), which is part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. As part of the final rule implementing the Electronic Health Record Reporting Program provision of the 21st Century Cures Act, on January 9, 2024, the ONC adopted certification requirements for a "decision support intervention (DSI)," which revised the "clinical decision support" criterion. According to the ONC, this final rule directly responds to the emergence of AI and machine learning-based predictive algorithms used to aid decision-making in health care. The ONC requirements apply to Predictive DSIs that are supplied by Certified Health IT developers. Predictive DSIs that are developed by a health system, or a third-party technology company are not subject to the requirements unless or until a Certified Health IT developer supplies a Predictive DSI as part of a Certified Health IT module. While the certification program is technically a voluntary program, health providers are required to use certified electronic health record technology to participate in incentive programs such as the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program. Among the certification requirements for a Predictive DSI, are a list of source attributes that include many of the disclosure requirements in this bill, including funding source, description of output, intended use and population target, cautioned out-of-scope use, process used to ensure fairness, and description of the validation process, among other overlaps.

Racial bias in algorithms and AI. Several studies have identified risks of racial bias in algorithms and AI. An October 2019 article in the journal *Science*, "Dissecting racial bias in an algorithm used to manage the health of populations," found that Black patients assigned the same level of risk by the algorithm are sicker than White patients. The study estimated that this racial bias reduces the number of Black patients identified for extra care by more than half. According to the study, bias occurs because the algorithm uses health costs as a proxy for health needs, and because less money is spent on Black patients who have the same level of need, the algorithm falsely concludes that Black patients are healthier than equally sick White patients. The journal *NPJ Digital Medicine* published a study in 2023, "LLMs propagate race-based medicine," that assessed four LLMs used in healthcare systems. The study found that all models had examples of perpetuating race-based medicine in their response to questions. Models were not always consistent in their response when asked the same question repeatedly, and that based on their findings, these LLMs could potentially cause harm by perpetuating debunked, racist ideas.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee,

- Unknown ongoing costs, ranging in the low millions, for the Labor Commissioner's Office for state administration (Labor Enforcement and Compliance Fund). The actual costs would depend on a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the volume and nature of the complaints filed.
- Minor and absorbable costs for the Osteopathic Medical Board of California to oversee complaints.
- Minor costs for the Medical Board of California resulting from an increase in complaints (Medical Board Contingent Fund).
- Unknown ongoing costs for the University of California (UC) health centers, potentially low tens of millions (costs would be covered by UC health center revenues), for compliance.
- No significant fiscal impact to the California Department of Justice.
- Unknown, potential workload costs to the courts related to enforcement of civil penalties (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to increase the amount appropriated for trial court operations.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/2026)

California Nurses Association (co-source)
California Federation of Labor Unions (co-source)
Alameda County Democratic Party
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Democratic Party
California Democratic Party Rural Caucus
California Faculty Association
California Federation of Teachers
California Pan - Ethnic Health Network
California School Employees Association
Consumer Watchdog
County of Ventura
Engineers and Scientists of California, IFPTE Local 20
Health Access California
National Union of Healthcare Workers
Oakland Privacy
Osteopathic Medical Board of California
Peace and Freedom Party of California
Service Employees International Union California

Teamsters California
TechEquity Action
United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals
Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc.

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/2026)

Advanced Medical Technology Association
Adventist Health
America's Physician Groups
Association of California Life & Health Insurance Companies
Association of Dental Support Organizations
American Telemedicine Association Action
Biocom California
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Health Plans
California Chamber of Commerce
California Children's Hospital Association
California Dental Association
California Hospital Association
California Life Sciences
California Medical Association
California Podiatric Medical Association
California Primary Care Association Advocates
California Radiological Society
California Society of Pathologists
Central City Association of Los Angeles
Civil Justice Association of California
Connected Health Initiative
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce
Kaiser Permanente
LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
MemorialCare Health System
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Ochin, Inc.
Orange County Business Council
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Private Essential Access Community Hospital

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
Scripps Health
Southwest California Legislative Council
Stanford Health Care
Sutter Health
TechNet
The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Tri County Chamber Alliance
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
University of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill is co-sponsored by the California Nurses Association/National Nurses United (CNA) and the California Federation of Labor Unions. According to CNA, as hospitals rapidly adopt AI-driven technologies that influence clinical decisions and working conditions, California must ensure that these tools support safe patient care rather than undermine professional standards or patient protections. CNA states that hospitals and clinics now use AI tools in electronic health records, clinical decision-support systems, remote monitoring platforms, staffing management software, and administrative workflows. California currently lacks clear guardrails governing the use of AI in health care settings, and evidence increasingly shows that many AI tools used in health care algorithms raise serious safety and accuracy concerns. CNA also argues that lack of transparency prevents clinicians and patients from understanding how AI systems influence care decisions, and that health care entities often provide little or no information about when AI tools are used, how they generate outputs, what data they rely on, or what limitations they carry. Without this information, nurses cannot fully evaluate the reliability of automated recommendations that appear in clinical workflows. CNA asserts that existing federal guidance has already demonstrated that developers can disclose key information about algorithm design, training data, and system limitations through standardized document such as "model cards." According to CNA, the disclosure requirements in this bill align with previously established federal standards by the ONC, which required developers of clinical decision support tools to provide information about a tool's design, purpose, and limitations. Hospitals require nurses and other health care workers to rely on technologies chosen by their employers, yet when those systems make mistakes, clinicians often bear the consequences. CNA states that nurses increasingly spend hours reviewing, correcting, and verifying AI-generated documentation that may contain errors or missing information. CNA nurses support tested and regulated technology that strengthens our ability to provide safe,

high-quality care. However, we cannot allow technology to override professional judgment, justify unsafe staffing, or shift responsibility for corporate technology failures onto frontline caregivers. The California Federation of Labor Unions makes similar arguments, and points to a recent Virginia Tech study that found that AI systems designed to predict patient risk of death are failing to recognize critical inductions much of the time, demonstrating the risk that reliance on AI tools could mislead providers. However, the California Labor Federation states health care workers have few protections if they choose to disregard automated recommendations.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: This bill is opposed by a large coalition of health care provider organizations, and business organizations, including the California Hospital Association, the California Medical Association, the California Chamber of Commerce, Advanced Medical Technology Association, and others. Opponents state that AI utilized in clinical decision support systems has the potential to improve nearly every aspect of health care, and that these systems are the latest in a series of innovative resources that trained and experienced health care providers use to help their patients. Opponents point to a number of examples, including AI-assisted imaging tools that help radiologists identify suspicious findings in mammograms, chest scans, and pathology slides; tools that provide sepsis alerts, flag concerning imaging results, and offer clinical decision support to enable clinicians to better assess a patient's condition; and, AI-generated clinical summaries that are used to help with handoffs between nurses, physicians, and other licensed professionals. Opponents state that before any AI tool is deployed, it undergoes an extensive review process, including via multidisciplinary committees from the health care workers who will use it, standardized privacy and security assessments, and review of AI registries. No AI platform is continued for use in patient care without a thorough assessment and ongoing monitoring for effectiveness and safety. At every stage of clinical care, opponents state that health care professionals retain full oversight and responsibility. Health care providers do not deploy AI or related technologies to make care decisions; instead, they are used to assist and free up resources for patient care, reduce clinician burnout, and expand early warning systems. Opponents state that this bill would undermine patient-centric policies and conflict with medical staff rules and regulations by protecting any worker who provides direct patient care from reprimand or discipline. This bill would essentially create a new protected class of workers, allowing them to make independent, subjective decisions about patient care without accountability, so long as those decisions fall within their scope of practice. Opponents argue that this would effectively give any worker who provides care unfettered authority, even when the subjective judgment causes patient harm. If a patient were to suffer harm, or even if harm is averted after a

clinician "overrides" a tool's output, the health facility would be unable to take corrective action, as doing so would be considered retaliation under this bill. Opponents state that this bill would force health providers to pull back AI tools that patients and clinicians currently rely on, and point to a 2025 review of 92 published studies that found AI tools are delivering meaningful improvements across the health care system, in real clinical settings. Opponents state that this bill's disclosure requirements include details that may not be available for all tools or even to the deployer of the technology. Further, the content list applies to everything meeting the definition of a clinical decision support system, so a decades-old interaction checker or assessment score carries the same burden as a new diagnostic tool. Opponents state that AI is not an aspiration in health care, but is a reality that is currently saving lives. We have a shared obligation to ensure that these tools continue to be developed and deployed responsibly, equitable, and transparently. This bill would not achieve those goals, but would bury health care providers in unworkable disclosure requirements, create perverse liability incentives, undermine patient safety systems, impair clinical quality oversight, increase costs, and ultimately reduce patient access to beneficial technology.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 48-15, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Ávila Farías, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Alvarez, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Gallagher, Gipson, Irwin, Nguyen, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Soria, Valencia

Prepared by: Vincent D. Marchand / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 11:27:16

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2592
Author: Pacheco (D) and Addis (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Lobbyist ethics

SOURCE: California Fair Political Practices Commission

DIGEST: This bill transfers from the Legislature to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) the duty to provide statutorily required training to lobbyists and prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a conviction for a crime of public corruption.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 add the contents of AB 1560 (Tangipa) of 2026 to this bill to prohibit a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years following conviction of specified crimes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Regulates lobbyists through the Political Reform Act (PRA), including by requiring lobbying firms and lobbyist employers to register with the Secretary of State (SOS) and file periodic reports disclosing their activities.

2) Requires, as part of the registration process, that each lobbyist submit a lobbyist certification with the SOS. This certification shall include:

   a) A recent photograph;

   b) The full name, business address, and telephone number of the lobbyist;

   c) A statement that the lobbyist understands the statutory gift limit; and

   d) A statement that the lobbyist has or will complete an ethics course.

3) Prohibits a person from being a candidate for office or serving in elected office in California if the person has been convicted of a felony involving accepting, giving or offering to give any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of these crimes.

4) Requires the appropriate legislative ethics committees of each house of the Legislature to conduct, at least semiannually, an orientation course on the relevant ethical issues and laws related to lobbying, in consultation with the FPPC to satisfy the ethics course requirement. This course must include information on each house of the Legislature's policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, in connection with lobbying activities.

5) Requires the committees to impose fees on lobbyists for attending the course in 4) of existing law and requires the fees to be set at an amount to enable the lobbyist's participation to be funded from those fees, to the fullest extent possible.

6) Requires lobbyists to attend an ethics training course at least once during each two-year legislative session as a condition of registering as a lobbyist.

7) Specifies administrative, civil, and criminal penalties for violating provisions of the PRA, including making any person who knowingly or willingly violates the PRA guilty of a misdemeanor. Conviction of a misdemeanor under the PRA precludes a person from being a candidate for office or acting as a lobbyist for four years, unless the court at sentencing determines this provision is not applicable.

This bill:

1) Prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a felony conviction for a crime of public corruption, defined in 3) of existing law. If a person is already a registered lobbyist and is convicted of such a crime, then the person's certification as a lobbyist shall be void upon the conviction, and the lobbyist is required to terminate their registration immediately upon conviction.

2) Requires a lobbyist certification submitted to the SOS to include a statement that the lobbyist has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.

3) Prohibits the SOS from accepting a lobbying certification from a person who has indicated on the lobbying certification that they have been convicted of a crime of public corruption within the previous 12 years.

4) Repeals, effective January 1, 2029, the requirements in existing law for the legislative ethics committees to conduct training for registered lobbyists and to impose fees to fund that lobbyist training.

5) Requires the FPPC, beginning in 2029, to develop, maintain and offer a training course for registered lobbyists on ethical issues and laws relating to lobbying, and on the Legislature′s policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, in connection with lobbying activities.

6) Requires the FPPC to consult with the appropriate legislative ethics committees in developing the training course curriculum and gives the legislative ethics committees final approval over content relating to the Legislature′s policies against harassment.

7) Requires the FPPC-provided training course to be available on-demand through an online platform, internet webpage, or application.

8) Permits the FPPC to impose beginning in 2029 a $50 fee per lobbyist for taking the training course and to adjust that fee for inflation in every odd-numbered year, rounded to the nearest $10.

9) Requires funds collected by the Assembly and Senate Legislative Ethics Committees from lobbyist training that are unused before January 1, 2029, to be transferred to the FPPC for purposes of developing the lobbyist training.

Background

Proposition 9, which appeared on the June 1974 ballot, created the California Political Reform Act (PRA) and established California's system of regulating lobbying activity, campaign finance, and conflicts of interest for public officials. Proposition 9 created the FPPC to implement, administer, and enforce the PRA. The PRA regulates lobbyists, including requiring lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers to register with the SOS and to file periodic reports disclosing their activities.

The PRA requires any person who qualifies as a lobbyist, and thus works for a lobbying firm or a lobbyist employer, to submit a lobbyist certification and include a recent photograph of the lobbyist. The SOS makes a list, with photographs, of all lobbyists publicly available on its website, which also provides lists of registered lobbying firms and lobbyist employers. The SOS publishes a directory of registered individual lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers.

SB 1738 (Roberti, Chapter 84, Statutes of 1990), also known as the "Ethics in Government Act of 1990," enacted a comprehensive ethics reform package. Among other provisions, SB 1738 required legislators, designated employees of the Legislature, and lobbyists to take periodic ethics orientation courses, conducted by the legislative ethics committees in the Assembly and Senate.

Comments

Author's Statement. This bill strengthens ethics and accountability in California's lobbying process. Transferring lobbyist training to the FPPC will ensure consistent, standardized instruction from the state's primary authority on political ethics and campaign finance. The bill also reinforces the integrity of the lobbying profession by prohibiting individuals convicted of crimes of public corruption from serving as lobbyists for 12 years. Together, these reforms promote compliance, accountability, and public trust in California's governmental processes.

Crimes of Public Corruption. Existing law in Elections Code Section 20 prohibits a person from being a candidate for office or serving in elected office in California if the person has been convicted of a felony involving accepting, giving or offering to give any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of these crimes. This bill refers to those crimes and that code section to define "crimes of public corruption" that make a person ineligible to lobby for 12 years conviction.

AB 2691 (Addis) of 2026 amends Elections Code Section 20 to expand the crimes that prohibit a person from running for office to include sexual assault and human trafficking. Thus, if both bills pass and become law, then a lobbyist would be ineligible to lobby for 12 years following the conviction of a crime of public corruption or specified sexual assault and human trafficking crimes.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1560 (Tangipa) of 2026 prohibits a person from serving as a lobbyist for 12 years after a conviction for a crime of public corruption.

AB 1789 (Boerner) of 2026 requires candidates and campaign treasurers beginning in 2029 to take an FPPC-provided training course on the requirements of the PRA.

AB 2055 (Levine, Chapter 964, Statutes of 2018) requires that lobbying ethics courses include information on the policies against harassment, including sexual harassment, established by each house of the Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

> FPPC indicates that it would require (1) one new analyst, at an ongoing annual cost of $107,000, and (2) annual software licensing costs of $80,000, to implement the provisions of the bill (General Fund). FPPC estimates $60,000 in revenue from the fee it may charge to each lobbyist that takes the training course (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/26)

California Fair Political Practices Commission (source)
California Common Cause

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Writing in support, the FPPC, this bill's source, states:

> While Assembly and Senate Ethics Counsel do an excellent job conducting the training, the FPPC is more appropriately suited to provide this training as the experts on the state's lobbying laws and the agency charged with

> advising on the lobbying rules outside of this training. Shifting to an on-demand model will also assist lobbyists in fulfilling their training duty.

California Common Cause says shifting lobbyist training to the FPPC "makes a practical and important update to California's ethics framework" and represents a thoughtful and well-calibrated improvement to California's ethics infrastructure.

In addition, Common Cause writes of the prohibition on lobbying after a conviction for specified crimes:

> California Common Cause strongly supports efforts to protect the integrity of governmental decision-making and ensure that individuals who seek to influence public policy are held to appropriate ethical standards. Individuals convicted of serious public corruption offenses, such as bribery, embezzlement of public funds, extortion, and perjury, have engaged in conduct that undermines public trust in government and the democratic process. (This bill) addresses these concerns by establishing meaningful restrictions on lobbying activity for individuals convicted of such offenses.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Carrie Cornwell / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/24/26 14:07:36

****** END ******

8/24/26 14:07:36

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2598
Author: Krell (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Weber Pierson, Valladares, Caballero, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grove, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Health care facilities: notification of next of kin

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires a hospital or a skilled nursing facility, if a person dies while in the facility, to make a reasonable attempt to notify any known next of kin, or if next of kin cannot be located, to notify the public administrator of the county within two business days; and 2) makes a violation of this requirement punishable by a civil penalty of $200 per day, up to $50,000, measured until the actual knowledge by the next of kin or the county public administrator of the decedent's death.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/2026 incorporated technical assistance amendments provided by the California Department of Public Health, which added a five business day standard for notification of a person's death to the county public administrator, and made a number of technical and clarifying changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Licenses and regulates health care facilities, including general acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities (SNF), under the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). [Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1250]

2) Requires the person in charge of a hospital, convalescent hospital, or board and care facility, if a person dies in the facility without known next of kin, to give immediate notice of that fact to the public administrator of the county in which the hospital or facility is located. Makes a hospital or facility, if this notice is not given, liable for any cost of interment incurred by the estate or the county as a result of the failure, and any loss to the estate or beneficiaries caused by loss, injury, waste, or misappropriation of property of the decedent. [Probate Code (PROB) §7600.5]

This bill:

1) Requires a general acute care hospital or SNF, if a person dies while in the facility, to make a reasonable attempt to notify any known next of kin that the person died in the facility.

2) Requires a hospital, if the body of a person is transferred to the hospital after death, to make a reasonable attempt to notify any known next of kin that the person's body is being held by the hospital.

3) Permits these requirements to be met by the hospital or SNF in either of the following ways:
   a) The facility notifies the designated resident representative of the person who died in the facility or has their body transferred to a hospital after death; or,
   b) The hospital or facility is informed by the person, prior to death and in writing, that they do not want their known next of kin to be notified of their presence or death.

4) Requires the facility, if they cannot locate any next of kin after a reasonable effort, to give notice within two business days of the fact that the person died in the facility or is being held by the hospital, to the public administrator of the county in which the facility is located.

5) Makes a hospital or SNF liable for both of the following if the notice to the next of kin or county public administrator is not given:

a) Any cost of interment incurred by the estate or the county as a result of the failure;
b) Any loss to the estate or beneficiaries caused by loss, injury, waste, or misappropriation of property of the decedent as a result of the failure.

6) Requires the hospital or facility, if it is required to notify the county public administrator, to provide the county public administrator with any identifying information they have available that may assist the county public administrator in identifying the decedent and their known next of kin, including the decedent's full legal name, social security number, driver's license, or other identification, residents at the time of death or last known address, and any available contact information for known next of kin.

7) Makes a general acute care hospital or an SNF that fails to make a reasonable attempt to notify any known next of kin, or to fail to notify the county public administrator within 5 business days, to be liable for a civil penalty in the amount of $200 for each day of the violation, up to $50,000. Specifies that these penalties do not preclude the application of any other existing civil remedies provided by law.

8) Permits a facility, if it disputes the assessment of a civil penalty under this bill, within 10 working days of the receipt of notification of the civil penalty, to request a hearing pursuant to specified provisions of existing law.

9) Defines various terms for purposes of this bill, including "reasonable attempt" as a documented, good-faith effort by the hospital or facility to contact any known next of kin within 72 hours of a person's death using any contact information available to the facility, including leaving a voicemail message and sending a text message or an email to the next of kin.

10) Makes technical changes to ensure that the new penalties established by this bill only apply to general acute care hospitals and SNFs, and that existing law as described in Existing Law 2) above continues to apply unchanged to health facilities that are not general acute care hospitals or SNFs, and board and care facilities.

11) Specifies that the provisions of this bill do not apply to the death of an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, because next of kin notification for incarcerated persons are governed by other provisions of existing law, as specified.

Background

According to the author of this bill:

> No family should have to wait months or years to discover that a loved one has passed away while at a hospital. With clear notification requirements and an enforcement mechanism, this bill ensures that compassion, dignity, and communication remain at the heart of California's healthcare system.

Background from author. This bill is responding to a series of reports by local television station KCRA into cases where Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Sacramento had failed to notify family members and next of kin of multiple deceased individuals. In these cases, there were no public records of the patients' deaths, and family members reported that they received no communication about their deceased family member. In at least four of these cases, the deceased's family contacted local law enforcement, where they ultimately discovered that their family member had passed away months prior. According to KCRA's reporting, the hospital held these individuals remains in an off-site cold storage facility. KCRA also reported that while the problem was most significant at Mercy San Juan Medical Center, the problem spanned across other Dignity Health facilities, including Mercy General Hospital and even one SNF. There were at least 179 patients at the off-site morgues with a delayed death certificate of at least one month. In the most extreme example, a deceased individual had their death certificate and family notification delayed by 3.5 years. According to the author, there are currently multiple lawsuits pending against Dignity Health from family members of the deceased.

CDPH investigated the incident at Mercy San Juan Medical Center and found that the hospital consistently failed to notify patients' families of their death, and issued a statement of deficiency, which requires a plan of correction. The initial state of deficiency for Mercy San Juan, issued in 2022, showed multiple failures to notify next of kin. Although Mercy San Juan subsequently completed a plan of correction, the hospital was issued two more statements of deficiencies in the following years, demonstrating repeated compliance failure. The author argues that this repetitive issue revealed gaps and insufficiencies in California law, and that CDPH needs clear authority to impose a penalty on facilities that have significant delays in notifying next of kin.

Role of Public Administrators. Public Administrators, along with Public Guardians and Public Conservators, are a type of county official who act under the authority granted by the California Superior Court. The Public Administrator

handles the disposition of deceased estates of persons who die with no will or without an appropriate person willing or able to act as administrator. The Public Administrator's primary duties are to protect the decedent's property from waste, loss or theft; make appropriate burial arrangements; conduct thorough investigations to discover all assets; liquidate assets at public sale or distribute assets to heirs; pay the decedent's bills and taxes; and, locate persons entitled to inherit from the estate and ensure that these individuals receive their inheritance.

Under current law, if someone dies without known next of kin at a hospital, convalescent hospital (generally speaking, an outdated term for an SNF), or a board and care facility (typically an adult residential facility), the person in charge of these facilities is required to give immediate notice to the public administrator of the county in which the facility is located. The failure to give this notice makes the facility liable for the cost of interment and loss to the estate or beneficiaries as a result of the failure to notify. However, this requirement is in the Probate Code, and so CDPH does not have direct enforcement authority over this provision of law. Therefore, one of the provisions of this bill adds a provision to the Health and Safety Code giving CDPH the ability to assess penalties for failure to follow the Probate Code requirements when it comes to general acute care hospitals and SNFs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, unknown ongoing costs, likely low hundreds of thousands, for CDPH to verify facility compliance with the updated next of kin requirements, investigate complaints, and conduct administrative proceedings (Licensing and Certification Fund).

Unknown, potential workload costs to the courts related to enforcement of civil penalties (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to increase the amount appropriated for trial court operations.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/20/2026)

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/20/2026)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) state in support that the recent KCRA news story reinforced sporadic accounts CANHR staff have heard over the years of health facilities failing to notify next of kin when a patient has died. This bill provides sensible and righteous requirements to ensure patient deaths are properly reported to the people who need and deserve to know about them.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Celeste Rodriguez, Tangipa

Prepared by: Vincent D. Marchand / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
8/24/26 13:37:12

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2601
Author: Lee (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 8-1, 6/24/26
AYES: Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Padilla
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-1, 7/1/26
AYES: Durazo, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird
NOES: Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 46-14, 5/4/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Planning and zoning: housing development: streamlined approval and subdivisions

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes several changes to the permitting and subdivision processes for small-scale housing developments.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 are nonsubstantive and do not make policy changes to AB 2601. The amendments address chaptering issues with SB 1090 (Perez), SB 1116 (Caballero) and AB 2005 (Ahrens).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law, pursuant to SB 9 (Atkins, Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021):

1) Requires a city or county to ministerially approve either or both of the following, as specified:

   a) A housing development of no more than two units (duplex) in a single-family zone; or,

   b) The subdivision of a parcel zoned for residential use, into two approximately equal parcels (urban-lot split), as specified.

2) Authorizes a city or county to impose objective zoning, subdivision, and design review standards that do not conflict with state standards, as specified.

Existing law, pursuant to the Starter Home Revitalization Act (SHRA):

3) Requires a local government to ministerially approve, without discretionary review or a hearing, a parcel map or a tentative and final map for a housing development project that meets, among others, the following requirements:

   a) The proposed subdivision will result in 10 or fewer parcels and the housing development project on the lot proposed to be subdivided will contain 10 or fewer units.

   b) The proposed development is located on a lot that meets all of the following sets of requirements:

      i) The lot is zoned for multifamily residential development or the lot is vacant, as defined, and zoned for single-family residential development.

      ii) The lot is no larger than five acres and substantially surrounded by qualified urban uses, as defined.

   c) The parcels created will be no smaller than the following unless the local government allows a smaller minimum parcel size:

      i) 600 square feet for parcels created by subdividing multifamily parcels.

      ii) 1,200 feet for parcels created by subdividing vacant single-family parcels.

   d) The housing units on the lot proposed to be subdivided are one of the following:

      i) Constructed on fee simple ownership lots.

ii) Part of a common interest development.

iii) Part of a housing cooperative, as specified.

iv) Owned by a community land trust.

e) The average total area of floorspace of the proposed units does not exceed 1,750 net habitable square feet.

4) Requires a local agency to ministerially consider an application for a project that meets the specified requirements of the Starter Home Revitalization Act.

Existing law, pursuant to the Davis-Stirling Common Interest Development Act:

5) Establishes rules and regulations governing the operation of Common Interest Developments (CIDs) and the respective rights and duties of a homeowners association (HOA) and its members. Requires the governing documents of a CID, and any amendments to the governing documents, to be adopted through HOA elections in accordance with specified procedures.

This bill:

1) Establishes concurrent processing of ministerial housing development applications and the appliable subdivision map applications for housing developments proposed under SB 9 (Atkins), as well housing developments proposed under the SHRA.

a) Allows, notwithstanding 2), a local agency to condition its issuance of building permits, grading permits, or certificates of occupancy for a proposed housing development upon the applicant first obtaining approval and recording a subdivision map for the lot split.

b) Allows a local agency to deem a building permit or other postentitlement permit for a housing development project incomplete and require revisions in response to any comments from the local agency or other reviewing agencies regarding the subdivision map's compliance with applicable state or local development and building standards.

2) Defines "parcel map" for the purposes of SB 9 (Atkins) to mean a parcel map prepared in accordance with the Subdivision Map Act (SMA) and may include a condominium plan if proposed by the subdivider and ultimately approved in accordance with the Davis-Sterling Act, as specified.

Background

SB 9 (Atkins, 2021). In 2021, the Governor signed SB 9 (Atkins, Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021), which allowed up to four homes on lots where currently only one exists. It did so by allowing existing single-family homes to be converted into duplexes; it also allowed single-family parcels to be subdivided into two lots, while allowing up to two units to be constructed on each newly formed lot. According to the Terner Center, that bill had the potential to allow for the development of nearly 6 million new housing units.

The Terner Center evaluated the use of SB 9 through the end of 2022 (one year from its enacted date of January 1, 2022). Researchers collected data from 13 jurisdictions and found that SB 9 activity was relatively limited. For example, Los Angeles had the most activity, with 211 applications for new units under SB 9 in 2022. The state's other large cities all reported few applications for lot splits or new units. For example, the City of San Diego reported receiving just seven applications for new SB 9 units in 2022[1].

Despite these initial reports, it is too early to draw any conclusions about SB 9's overall impact, as homeowners and local governments are still learning about the provisions in the bill. Similarly, it took a several years for accessory dwelling unit application and construction to increase after reforms took effect on January 1, 2017.

Ministerial subdivisions for smaller projects. In 2023, the Governor signed SB 684 (Caballero, Chapter 783, Statutes of 2023), which established the SHRA and streamlined small lot subdivisions to help promote their development. The statutory provisions created by that bill require local governments to ministerially approve a parcel map or tentative and final map with 10 or fewer units on sites zoned multifamily that are no larger than five acres and substantially surrounded by qualified urban uses. Projects must meet minimum density requirements and comply with existing setback and height requirements. Units can be no greater than 1,750 net habitable square feet. The project must also comply with any local inclusionary requirements. If the project receives a tentative or parcel map pursuant to this bill, the local agency must issue the building permit based on the approved map under specified circumstances. Two years ago, SB 1123 (Caballero, Chapter 294, Statutes of 2024) revised the statute to expand its scope, most notably extending the streamlining provisions to vacant lots zoned for single-family developments that meet specified conditions.

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[1]Muhammad Alameldin and David Garcia, "State Law, Local Interpretation: How Cities Are Implementing Senate Bill 9," *Terner Center for Housing Innovation*, June 8, 2022, accessed April 9, 2025, **https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/research-and-policy/state-law-local-interpretation-senate-bill-9/**.

Comments

Author's Statement. "This bill proposes to allow developments to be eligible for concurrent review of parcel map splits associated with specified development types, including ADU, condos, and SB 9 splits. By allowing concurrent review of different aspects of a single project, the development may be able to be approved faster, without imposing new deadlines on approving agencies, and provide greater certainty for project financing."

SB 9. Under SB 9, the total number of units that can be built on a formerly single-family zoned lot is capped at four. Under existing law, accessory dwelling units (ADUs) may be built in combination with SB 9 so long as the total number of units on a lot does not exceed four. Property owners may use both SB 9 and ADUs to achieve the maximum allowed density in a configuration that best suits their site and circumstances, for example, two primary units under SB 9 and one ADU per unit. Furthermore, SB 9 explicitly prohibits the owner of the parcel being subdivided from also subdividing the adjacent parcels under SB 9 in order to limit its applicability to a two-lot, four-unit cap.

This bill requires local agencies to allow concurrent processing of applications for urban lot splits and associated SB 9 duplexes. While this bill allows these approvals to proceed in parallel, it preserves existing sequencing requirements by authorizing local agencies to condition the issuance of building permits, grading permits, or certificates of occupancy on the prior approval and recordation of the parcel map for the urban lot split. This bill also makes targeted changes to facilitate the delivery and sale of small-scale ownership housing.

SB 684/ SB 1123. SB 684/1123 established a streamlined, ministerial pathway for small-scale housing development on subdivided lots. Specifically, these laws require local agencies to ministerially approve qualifying subdivisions of up to 10 parcels and associated housing development projects of up to 10 units on lots zoned for multifamily or on lots that are vacant and zoned for single-family residential developments. SB 684/1123 projects are required to meet specified objective standards related to site eligibility, density, affordability (if it is located on a site identified for lower-income housing in the most recent housing element), and environmental constraints. The statutes limit local discretion to objective zoning, subdivision, and design standards, prohibit standards that would physically preclude development at required densities, and impose firm timelines for approval. Together, these provisions are intended to facilitate "missing middle" housing by enabling smaller, by-right projects in urbanized areas.

This bill requires local agencies to allow concurrent processing of subdivision maps and ministerial housing development and building permit applications for projects authorized under SB 684/1123. While this bill allows these approvals to proceed in parallel, it preserves existing sequencing requirements by authorizing local agencies to condition the issuance of building permits, grading permits, or certificates of occupancy on the prior approval and recordation of the applicable parcel map or final map.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Abundant Housing Los Angeles
Bay Area Council
California Yimby
Circulate Planning & Policy
Inner City Law Center
Southern California Obtainable Housing
Sv@home Action Fund

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

California Association of Realtors

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 46-14, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas
NOES: Boerner, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Sanchez, Tangipa, Valencia

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Ellis, Gipson, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Lackey, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Ta, Wallis, Zbur

Prepared by: Hank Brady / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
8/24/26 13:48:21

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2604
Author: Berman (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-20, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Elections: ballot curing

SOURCE: California Voter Foundation
Protect Democracy United

DIGEST: This bill requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to implement and make available to county election officials a system that allows voters to access electronic signature curing.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires every active registered voter to receive a vote by mail (VBM) ballot for any election. A VBM ballot is timely cast if it is received by the voter's elections official by mail no later than seven days after Election Day and is postmarked or time/date stamped on or before Election Day.

2) Requires election officials to compare the voter's signature on the identification envelope with the voter's signatures on file upon receiving a VBM ballot. If the

elections official determines the signature on a VBM ballot return envelope does not compare to the signatures in the voter's registration record or is missing, a voter is mailed a notice and a form detailing how to remedy the issue. This process is also known as "curing" a signature.

3) Provides a voter's VBM ballot is not rejected if the voter submits a signature cure form by 5 p.m. on the day of the applicable receipt deadline and the signature on that form compares to a signature in the voter's registration record.

4) Permits a voter to submit their completed statement by email, facsimile transmission, or by other electronic means made available by the local elections official.

5) Requires a local elections official offering other electronic means for submission of a signature verification or unsigned VBM envelope statement to establish appropriate privacy and security protocols that ensure the information transmitted is received directly and securely by the elections official and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the signature on the voter's ballot.

This bill:

1) Requires the SOS to implement and make available to county election officials a system allowing voters to access electronic signature curing to mitigate issues related to a voter's missing or noncomparing signature on the voter's VBM ballot envelope.

2) Provides that any electronic signature curing service ensures data privacy and security for voters.

3) Requires the SOS to publish electronic signature curing data on its website. This data includes, by county, the number of voters who cured missing or noncomparing signatures using electronic signature curing and the number of voters to whom electronic signature curing was offered.

4) Permits the SOS to combine an electronic signature curing system with existing ballot tracking notifications.

Background

Curing Signatures Electronically. Under existing law, a voter may submit their signature cure form by mail, in person, via a ballot dropbox, a voting location, email, or fax. In addition to these methods, AB 1037 (Berman, Chapter 673,

Statutes of 2023) allowed voters to return a completed signature cure form by electronic means if service was made available by the elections official.

Some counties have implemented an electronic signature cure process that allows a voter to cure using a text platform, also known as a text-to-cure system. Voters sign the screen of their phone or tablet and submit it using a secure platform.

The Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters (ROV) implemented a text message signature cure process during the 2024 primary election. In the 2025 statewide special election, the Contra Costa ROV sent 3,643 cure letters for noncomparing signatures and voters cured 971 signatures, including 284 using text-to-cure and 58 using email.

Comments

Author's Statement. In the last general election in November 2024, over 69% of rejected VBM ballots were for either a missing signature or for a signature that did not compare to the signature associated with the voter's registration record. This amounted to nearly 85,000 ballots. Current law provides that if there is a missing or noncomparing signature on the VBM ballot envelope, our election officials notify the voter of the problem and how to correct the issue. In response to AB 1037, several counties have chosen to offer voters electronic curing as a secure, effective, and voter-friendly option to correct a missing or a signature that does not compare to the one on the voter's registration record. Unfortunately, far too many curable ballots are still not corrected. Accordingly, this bill simply provides for statewide adoption of electronic ballot curing, thereby making it more likely that eligible ballots are counted and less likely that voters are disenfranchised.

Electronic Signature Curing. Changing the wording from "text-message-based signature curing" to "electronic signature curing," allows for other methods, beyond text messaging, to be used for signature curing. For example, in Los Angeles County, a voter currently has the ability to return their signature cure form by mail, email, fax, text message, delivering the form in-person, or dropping off the form at a ballot dropbox or vote center. The change in wording does not limit a county to only text messages and allows for other electronic means.

The expanded wording is also aligned with the author's intent. The author sees this bill as a way to streamline the curing process and help get more ballots cured faster by facilitating statewide adoption of electronic ballot curing, in particular by having access to electronic ballot curing for all California voters.

Alternatively, "electronic" could also be interpreted with a narrow meaning. For example, the SOS could implement these provisions to only apply to facsimile submissions.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1037 (Berman, Chapter 673, Statutes of 2023) permits a voter to return a completed signature cure form by electronic means, if such means are made available by the elections official.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

> SOS indicates that it would incur annual costs in the millions of dollars to implement a statewide text-message-based ballot curing system (General Fund, see Staff Comments).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

California Voter Foundation (co-source)
Protect Democracy United (co-source)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
California Association of Black Lawyers
California Initiative for Technology & Democracy
California Common Cause
Campaign Legal Center
CFT – A Union of Educators and Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Disability Rights California
Human Rights First
League of Women Voters of California
NextGen California
Responsive Gov Action
SEIU California
Verified Voting

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In a letter supporting this bill, Verified Voting stated, in part, the following:

> Several counties have already demonstrated that mobile curing is an effective, secure, and voter-friendly tool. [This bill] would build on that success by enabling the SOS to implement or support a uniform statewide system, improving cure rates and reducing the number of ballots that go uncounted.
>
> [...]
>
> Providing a mobile ballot curing solution allows California voters to use technology that they are already familiar with to cure their ballot. Benefits of adopting a solution statewide, rather than the current county-by-county approach, also include significant cost savings.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In a letter opposing this bill, SOS Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., suggested amendments for this bill. Below is a summary of their proposed amendments:

- Replace specific provisions in the bill and insert language that adopts and publishes signature curing technology standards and regulations governing the certification and use of signature verification and signature curing technology. This includes technology capable of capturing digital signatures.

- Provide language that signature verification and/or signature curing technology must not be used unless it has been certified by the SOS. This includes a prohibition of certifying signature verification and signature curing technology by the SOS unless it meets the SOS' standards and regulations.

- Require counties, instead of the SOS, to collect and publish data required by this bill.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-20, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/19/26 15:44:14

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2631
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Arreguín, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener
NOES: Seyarto

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-17, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Criminal procedure: prohibited violations

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill adds exercising any rights protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution to the list of prohibited violations for which an order for a warrant for the interception of a wire may not be issued.

Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 clarify that this bill's provisions do not prevent the interception of wire or electronic communications related to specified criminal offenses solely because the communications may also involve expression protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

1) Provides that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging the freedom of

speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. (U.S. Const., 1st Amend.)

2) Defines "legally protected health care activity" as any of the following:

   a) The exercise and enjoyment, or attempted exercise and enjoyment, by a person of rights to reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services, or gender-affirming mental health care services secured by the Constitution or laws of California or the provision by a health care service plan contract or a policy, or a certificate of health insurance, that provides for such services.

   b) An act or omission undertaken to aid or encourage, or attempt to aid or encourage, a person in the exercise and enjoyment or attempted exercise and enjoyment of rights to reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services, or gender-affirming mental health care services secured by the Constitution or laws of California.

   c) The provision of reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services, or gender-affirming mental health care services by a person duly licensed under the laws of California or the coverage of, and reimbursement for, those services or care by a health care service plan or a health insurer, if the service or care is lawful under the laws of California, regardless of the patient's location. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 1549.15, subd. (b)(1)(A)-(C).)

3) Authorizes the Attorney General, chief deputy attorney general, chief assistant attorney general, district attorney, or the district attorney's designee to apply to the presiding judge of the superior court for an order authorizing the interception of wire or electronic communications under specified circumstances. (Pen. Code, § 629.50, et seq.)

4) Defines, for the purposes of wiretapping, "prohibited violation" to mean any violation of law that creates liability arising for, or arising out of, either of the following:

   a) Providing, facilitating, or obtaining a legally protected health care activity that is lawful under California law; or,
   b) Intending or attempting to provide, facilitate, or obtain a legally protected health care activity that is lawful under California law. (Pen. Code, § 629.51)

5) Authorizes that the court may grant oral approval for an emergency interception of wire, electronic pager, or electronic cellular telephone communications without an order as specified. Requires that approval for an oral interception be conditioned upon filing with the court, within 48 hours of the oral approval, a written application for an order. States that approval of the ex parte order shall be conditioned upon filing with the judge within 48 hours of the oral approval. (Pen. Code, § 629.56.)

6) States that no order entered under this chapter shall authorize the interception of any wire, electronic pager, or electronic cellular telephone or electronic communication for any period longer than is necessary to achieve the objective of the authorization, nor in any event longer than 30 days. (Pen. Code, § 629.58.)

7) Requires that written reports showing what progress has been made toward the achievement of the authorized objective, including the number of intercepted communications, be submitted at least every 10 days to the judge who issued the order allowing the interception. (Pen. Code, § 629.60.)

8) Requires the Attorney General to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature, the Judicial Council, and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Court on interceptions conducted under the authority of the wiretap provisions and specifies what the report shall include. (Pen. Code, § 629.62.)

9) Prohibits a California corporation that provides electronic communication services or remote computing services from complying with a warrant issued by another state if it is related to a prohibited violation. (Pen. Code, § 1524.2.)

10) Prohibits a California corporation or a corporation whose principal offices are located in California that provides electronic communications services from, in California, providing information or assistance with the terms of a warrant, court order, subpoena, or wiretap order that relates to the investigation or enforcement of a prohibited violation. (Pen. Code, § 1546.5.)

This bill:

1) Expands the definition of a prohibited violation, for which an order for a warrant for the interception of a wire may not be issued, to include any

violation of law that creates liability arising for, or arising out of, exercising any rights protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

2) Clarifies that a California corporation that provides electronic communication services or remote computing services shall not produce records when served with a warrant seeking a prohibited violation by a federal court as well as a state court.

Background

Recently, federal administrative subpoenas have been sent to technology companies in an attempt to obtain the content of communications as well as subscriber information and other user information regarding people who have accounts tracking Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agents or criticizing their activities. Administrative subpoenas do not require a court order review, and they do not need to be complied with, but some companies have responded or are unsure of how to act because there is no clear statutory basis on which they can rely. This bill clarifies that they should not release information relating to a prohibited violation.

Under existing California law, the Attorney General or a district attorney may make an application to a judge of the superior court for an order authorizing the interception of a wire, electronic pager, or electronic cellular telephone. (Pen. Code, § 629.50, et. seq.) The law regulates the issuance, duration, and monitoring of these orders and imposes safeguards to protect the public from unreasonable interceptions. The law also limits the crimes for which an interception may be sought to the following:

- Importation, possession for sale, transportation or sale of controlled substances;
- Murder or solicitation of murder or commission of a felony involving a destructive device;
- A felony in violation of prohibitions on criminal street gangs;
- Possession or use of a weapon of mass destruction;
- A violation of human trafficking;
- Sexual exploitation of a minor under Penal Code Sec. 311.4; or
- An attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the above.

Existing law states that no magistrate shall enter an order authorizing interception of wire or electronic communications for the purpose of investigating or recovering

evidence of a "prohibited violation." The law also prohibits a corporation from complying with a warrant that
seeks information relating to a prohibited violation. "Prohibited violation" is currently defined to mean any violation of law that creates liability for providing, facilitating, or obtaining—or attempting or intending to provide, facilitate or obtain—a legally protected health care activity.

Existing law defines "legally protected health care activity" as any of the following:

- The exercise and enjoyment, or attempted exercise and enjoyment, by a person of rights to reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services, or gender-affirming mental health care services secured by the Constitution or laws of California or the provision by a health care service plan contract or a policy, or a certificate of health insurance, that provides for such services.

- An act or omission undertaken to aid or encourage, or attempt to aid or encourage, a person in the exercise and enjoyment or attempted exercise and enjoyment of rights to reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services, or gender-affirming mental health care services secured by the Constitution or laws of California.

- The provision of reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services, or gender-affirming mental health care services by a person duly licensed under the laws of California or the coverage of, and reimbursement for, those services or care by a health care service plan or a health insurer, if the service or care is lawful under the laws of California, regardless of the patient's location. (Pen. Code, § 1549.15, subd. (b)(1)(A)-(C).)

This bill expands the definition of a prohibited violation, for which an order for a warrant for the interception of a wire may not be issued, to include any violation of law that creates liability for, or arising out of, exercising any rights protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This bill additionally clarifies that a California corporation that provides electronic communication services or remote computing services shall not produce records when served with a warrant seeking a prohibited violation by a federal court as well as a state court.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The Senate Appropriations Committee writes:

Minor, absorbable costs to the Department of Justice to apply the expanded "prohibited violation" definition in wiretap order applications. Cases are expected to be few. (General Fund). Minor to modest cost pressure to the courts to adjudicate matters under the bill.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/12/26)

Electronic Frontier Foundation
Oakland Privacy

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/12/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Oakland Privacy writes:

> While nominally First Amendment activities are protected by the federal constitution for all Americans, and no state should be attempting to criminalize fundamental rights protected by the federal constitution, in practice we have seen some erosion in those rights around certain controversial issues, in particular immigration. Such efforts have been incited by disturbing language from the executive branch seeking to redefine protected activities, like protesting the way the federal government is carrying out immigration enforcement, into "terrorism" or other dangerous and illegal activities.
>
> In particular, executive order NSPM-7 equates a litany of beliefs with political violence and domestic terrorism including:
>
> Anti-Americanism, anti-capitalism, and anti-Christianity," "support for the overthrow of" the federal government, "extremism on migration, race, and gender," and opposition to "traditional American views on family, religion, and morality."
>
> This profound muddying of the waters of basic Constitutional freedoms that Americans have taken for granted for centuries, as well as the implicit encouragement in the memo to go after any civil

society institutions perceived to embrace any of these beliefs creates a dangerous situation for public dissent and First-Amendment protected acts of protest. It is basically a red flag for more conservative states to act to enforce limitations on the First Amendment.

Assembly Bill 2631 seeks to ensure that California will not be complicit with any attempts to criminalize First Amendment protections for freedom of speech and assembly.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-17, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Davies, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Marshal Lawler / PUB. S. /
8/24/26 13:44:39

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2633
Author: Gipson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas, Strickland, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Secondhand dealers

SOURCE: California Pawnbrokers Association

DIGEST: This bill 1) requires all entities doing business in the scope of a secondhand dealer to have a valid California secondhand dealer's license; 2) exempts from secondhand dealer requirements tangible personal property that has been acquired from a nonprofit organization or as a bulk purchase of donated items; 3) deletes the definition of significant class of stolen goods; and 4) prohibits a local jurisdiction or any other state agency from issuing a license or permit to allow any entity to conduct business as a secondhand dealer without the entity having a state secondhand dealer license, among other changes.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 delete adding all secondhand jewelry, items, or objects to the definition of tangible personal property and exempts tangible personal property acquired from a nonprofit organization or as a bulk purchase of donated items from secondhand dealer requirements.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Defines a "secondhand dealer" to mean any person, copartnership, firm, or corporation whose business includes buying, selling, trading, taking in pawn, accepting for sale on consignment, accepting for auctioning, or auctioning secondhand tangible personal property. However, a "secondhand dealer" does not include a "coin dealer" or participants at gun shows, as specified. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 21626)

2) Defines "tangible personal property" to mean all secondhand tangible personal property that bears a serial number or personalized initials or inscription or that, at the time it is acquired by the secondhand dealer, bears evidence of having had a serial number or personalized initials or inscription, as specified. (BPC § 21627(a)(b))

3) Defines the California Pawn and Secondhand Dealer System (CAPPS), which is a single, statewide, uniform electronic reporting system that receives secondhand dealer reports and is operated by the California Department of Justice (DOJ). (BPC § 21627.5)

4) Requires every secondhand dealer or coin dealer, as specified, to report daily to CAPPS all tangible personal property (except firearms), which they have purchased, taken in trade, taken in pawn, accepted for sale on consignment, or accepted for auctioning, as specified. (BPC § 21628)

This bill:

1) Eliminates the exemption for coin dealers, as defined, from the provisions of the secondhand dealer's act and requires every entity acting as, and engaging in the actions of a secondhand dealer to have a valid secondhand dealer's license.

2) Clarifies that every entity acting as a secondhand dealer is required to report to CAPSS, as specified.

3) Deletes the definition of "significant class of stolen goods".

4) Clarifies that firearms are not subject to daily reporting requirements, as specified.

5) Removes a coin dealer from the reporting requirements under the secondhand dealer's act.

6) Prohibits a city, county, or city and county or any other state agency from issuing a license or permit to allow any entity to conduct business as a secondhand dealer without the entity having a secondhand dealer license, as specified.

7) Requires any person conducting business as a secondhand dealer to report receipt or purchase of secondhand tangible personal property to CAPSS, as specified.

8) Exempts from secondhand dealer requirements tangible personal property acquired from a nonprofit organization or as a bulk purchase of donated items.

9) Makes technical, clarifying and conforming changes.

Background

Secondhand Dealers. Regulation of secondhand dealers, which include pawnbrokers, began in 1980. The intent of regulation was to provide law enforcement agencies with a means to limit the selling of stolen property and to facilitate its recovery by way of a uniform statewide, state administered secondhand dealer licensing and reporting program. Secondhand dealers include those whose business comprises buying, selling, trading, taking in pawn, accepting for sale on consignment, accepting for auctioning or auctioning secondhand tangible personal property; however, coin dealers are exempt from the current definition of a secondhand dealer.

The CAPSS is a statewide electronic reporting system administered by the DOJ. Secondhand dealers across the state report their daily transaction to this database which allows access to law enforcement across the state. To help alleviate the unintentional acquisition of stolen property, in addition to strict reporting requirements about the tangible personal property received, secondhand dealers must also collect and retain seller or pledger information. Secondhand dealers currently report only those items that constitute a significant class of stolen goods which is further defined as "those items determined through the DOJ's most recent OpenJustice Web portal update to constitute more than 10% of property reported stolen in the calendar year preceding the annual posting of the list of significant classes of stolen goods". The sponsors of this bill note that the current definition of

significant classes of stolen goods is difficult to determine, so they have requested to strike the definition.

Secondhand dealers are licensed through local law enforcement. Persons, entities, or corporations wishing to conduct business as a secondhand dealer, must first apply for a specific license to conduct the business with the local licensing agency (chief of police or sheriff) who then receives background check results and a license number issued by the DOJ's Secondhand Dealer and Pawnbroker Unit.

Under current law, the secondhand dealer laws and reporting requirements exempt coin dealers as the definition of tangible personal property does not include coins, monetized bullion, or commercial grade ingots of gold, silver, or other precious metals. This bill clarifies that only a licensed secondhand dealer may buy, sell, trade, take in pawn, accept for sale on consignment, accept for auction, or auction secondhand tangible personal property. Additionally, this bill requires any entity acting as a secondhand dealer to report to CAPSS. This bill also prohibits a local jurisdiction or any other state agency from issuing a license or permit that allows any entity to conduct business as a secondhand dealer without a state secondhand dealer license. The changes proposed by this bill are intended to ensure that individuals and businesses operating as secondhand dealers and handling tangible personal property items, as defined in current law, are subject to all applicable licensing, reporting, and holding requirements. As recently amended, this bill would exempt tangible personal property acquired from a nonprofit organization or as a bulk purchase of donated items from the secondhand dealer requirements.

Comments

As recently amended, this bill adds an exemption to the definition of tangible personal property to include those items that have been acquired from a nonprofit organization or as a bulk purchase of donated items. It is unclear how this broad exemption will impact on the current secondhand dealer act and if this unintentionally create a new pathway to move stolen items and avoid reporting through CAPSS. The broad applicability of this exemption with limited clarification on the impact could undermine the intent of the secondhand dealer act which is to curtail the dissemination of stolen property and help facilitate the recovery of stolen property.

Internet Works and Protecting America’s Small Sellers note concerns and write, “…Our organizations take no issue with the goal of addressing operators that buy

gold directly from the public and may quickly melt or move the property before law enforcement can recover stolen goods.

“The language in print, however, goes far beyond that objective. It is not limited to temporary events, direct purchasers, out-of-state operators, or even gold. By adding “all secondhand jewelry, items, or objects” to tangible personal property and broadly applying licensing and reporting requirements across secondhand transactions, the bill creates substantial uncertainty for ordinary e-commerce and recommerce activity.

“Third-party marketplaces connect independent buyers and sellers; they generally do not purchase the item, acquire title, set the price, or possess the property. A Californians may simply be selling a personally owned watch, inherited jewelry, or another item never acquired for resale. Yet the current language could be read to treat casual sellers, marketplaces, and multiple service providers as secondhand dealers—and subject them to licensing, CAPSS reporting, fingerprinting, and physical holding requirements they cannot reasonably perform.

“The consequences are real. This uncertainty would increase compliance costs, discourage ordinary resale, reduce consumer choice, and burden casual sellers, microbusinesses, and small technology companies, while doing little to address the temporary gold-buying events that prompted the bill.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the bill will result in unknown, potentially significant workload cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate any misdemeanor violations resulting from this bill. DOJ does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/24/26)

California Pawnbrokers Association (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/24/26)

One individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: California Pawnbrokers Association writes in support and notes, “AB 2633 clarifies existing statute to make it clear to event centers and hotels who host gold buying events, local government entities who issue permits to hold them, and local law enforcement agencies who police them, that all gold dealers ARE second-hand dealers and must follow the laws intended

to protect the public and help law enforcement trace and recover stolen property. This bill will close the loophole and close an avenue for the purchase and sale of stolen gold jewelry."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
8/24/26 11:12:54

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2644
Author: Blanca Rubio (D)
Introduced: 2/20/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Gambling Control Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of any member of the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), for the licensure and regulation of various legalized gambling activities and establishment by the Commission and the investigation and enforcement of those activities and establishments by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

2) Provides that the Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation of the Senate, and requires the Governor to designate one member to serve as chairperson.

3) Requires that the Commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general public.

4) Authorizes the Governor to remove any member of the Commission for incompetence, neglect of duty, or corruption upon first giving the member a copy of the charges and an opportunity to be heard.

5) Requires the Governor to fill any vacancies on the Commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy.

6) Provides that a person is ineligible for appointment to the Commission if, within two years prior to appointment, the person was employed by, retained by, or derived substantial income from, a gambling establishment.

This bill:

1) Requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of a member of the Commission.

2) Makes other technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "the bill aims to ensure the prompt enforcement of gambling laws by addressing vacancies and enabling the Commission to operate efficiently. When seats are unfilled, even a single absence or recusal can hinder decision-making, leaving the industry without effective oversight and causing delays. The bill seeks to strengthen enforcement, improve dispute resolution, and expedite licensing."

Gambling Control Act. The Act provides the Commission with jurisdiction over the operation of gambling establishments in California. The Act requires every owner, lessee, or employee of a gambling establishment to obtain and maintain a valid state gambling license. The Act assigns the Commission the responsibility of

assuring that gambling licenses are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is harmful to the public health, safety, or welfare.

The Act directs the Commission to issue licenses only to those persons of good character, honesty and integrity, whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state. The DOJ conducts background and field investigations and enforces the provisions of the Act in this regard.

California Gambling Control Commission. The Commission is composed of five members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the California State Senate. State law establishes several requirements to ensure professional expertise and political balance on the Commission. For example, no more than three of the five commissioners may belong to the same political party. The statute also requires that the Commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general public.

Current law authorizes the Governor to remove a member of the Commission for incompetence, neglect of duty, or corruption upon first giving the member a copy of the charges and an opportunity to be heard. This bill simply requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of a member of the Commission.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 1235 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the Commission. (Pending on the Assembly Floor)

AB 2173 (Wallis, 2026) requires the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2793 (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization, 2026) modifies existing law to require that one member of the Commission, among other criteria, to be an attorney with regulatory or gaming law experience. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

SB 864 (Padilla, 2025) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet website no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 1154 (Alvarado-Gil, 2024) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Never Heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee)

SB 346 (Ochoa-Bogh, 2023) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Never Heard in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

SB 899 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2022) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Held on the Assembly Floor Inactive File)

SB 302 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2021) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 869 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2020) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 286 (Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, 2019) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

AB 1827 (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization, 2019) would have required the Commission to post a public record of each of its votes on its Internet Web site. (Died in the Senate Inactive File)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
8/6/26 11:36:52

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2664
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-2, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Places of religious worship: unlawful activities

SOURCE: Jewish California

DIGEST: This bill prohibits a person, within a radius of 100 feet from an entrance or exit of a place of religious worship, from intentionally and nonconsensually approaching another person seeking to enter or exit a place of religious worship within 8 feet of that person to engage in specified conduct with that person.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 clarify the definition of "place of religious worship" with regard to parking lots and specify that the above prohibition protects only those seeking to enter or exit a place of religious worship.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. (U.S. Constitution (Const.), 1st Amend.)

2) Provides that the free exercise and enjoyment of religion without discrimination or preference are guaranteed, and that the Legislature of the State of California shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. (California (Cal.) Const, art. I, § 3.)

3) Establishes a legislative finding and declaration that it is the right of every person regardless of actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with these actual or perceived characteristics, to be secure and protected from fear, intimidation, and physical harm caused by the activities of violent groups and individuals. (Penal [Pen.] Code, §11410, subd. (a).)

4) Establishes that the Legislature recognizes the constitutional right of every citizen to harbor and express beliefs on any subject whatsoever and to associate with others who share similar beliefs, but also that the advocacy of unlawful violent acts by groups against other persons or groups under circumstances where death or great bodily injury is likely to result is not constitutionally protected, poses a threat to public order and safety, and should be subject to criminal and civil sanctions. (Ibid.)

5) Provides that, except as provided, any person who willfully threatens, by any means, including, but not limited to, an image or threat posted or published on an internet web page, to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or persons at any number of specified locations, including a house of worship, with specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, if the threat on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person or persons threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and if that threat causes a person or persons to reasonably be in sustained fear for their own safety or the safety of others at these locations, shall be guilty of a crime, punishable as a wobbler. (Pen. Code, § 422.3.)

6) Provides, via the California Freedom of Access to Clinic and Church Entrances (FACE) Act, that every person who, except a parent or guardian acting towards

his or her minor child or ward, commits any of the following acts shall be subject to criminal punishment, as specified:

a) By force, threat of force, or physical obstruction that is a crime of violence, intentionally injures, intimidates, interferes with, or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with, any person or entity because that person or entity is a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant, or in order to intimidate any person or entity, or any class of persons or entities, from becoming or remaining a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant; or

b) By force, threat of force, or physical obstruction that is a crime of violence, intentionally injures, intimidates, interferes with, or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise the First Amendment right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship; or

c) By nonviolent physical obstruction, intentionally injures, intimidates, or interferes with, or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with, any person or entity because that person or entity is a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant, or in order to intimidate any person or entity, or any class of persons or entities, from becoming or remaining a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant; or

d) By nonviolent physical obstruction, intentionally injures, intimidates, or interferes with, or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with, any person lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise the First Amendment right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship; or

e) Intentionally damages or destroys the property of a person, entity, or facility, or attempts to do so, because the person, entity, or facility is a reproductive health services client, provider, assistant, or facility; or

f) Intentionally damages or destroys the property of a place of religious worship. (Pen. Code, § 423.2, subds. (a)-(f).)

7) Makes a first violation involving nonviolent physical obstruction a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than six months and a fine not to exceed $2,000. (Pen. Code, § 423.3, subd. (a).)

8) Makes a second or subsequent violation involving violation involving nonviolent physical obstruction a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in

a county jail for a period of not more than six months and a fine not to exceed $5,000. (Pen. Code, § 423.3, subd. (b).)

9) Makes a first violation involving force, threat of force, or physical obstruction that is a crime of violence or intentional property damage a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year and a fine not to exceed $25,000. (Pen. Code, § 423.3, subd. (c).)

10) Makes a second or subsequent violation involving force, threat of force, or physical obstruction that is a crime of violence or intentional property damage a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year and a fine not to exceed $50,000. (Pen. Code, § 423.3, subd. (d).)

11) Provides that a person aggrieved by a violation of the FACE Act may bring a civil action to enjoin the violation, for compensatory and punitive damages, and for the costs of suit and reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses, except that only a person lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise the First Amendment right of religious freedom in a place of religious worship, or the entity that owns or operates a place of religious worship, may bring an action under provisions of the FACE Act related to conduct at a place of worship. (Pen. Code, § 423.4, subd. (a).)

12) Provides that courts in which a criminal or civil proceeding is filed for violations of the FACE Act shall take all action reasonably required, including granting restraining orders, to safeguard the health, safety, or privacy of specified parties that are parties to the proceeding, witnesses, victims, potential victims and others. (Pen. Code, § 423.5, subd. (a).)

13) Makes it a wobbler for a person to burn or desecrate a cross or other religious symbol, knowing it to be a religious symbol, on the property of a place of worship for the purpose of terrorizing a person who attends it, works at it, or is otherwise associated with it. (Pen. Code, § 11411, subd. (d).)

14) Provides that any person who, with intent to cause, attempts to cause or causes another to refrain from exercising his or her religion or from engaging in a religious service by means of a threat, directly communicated to such person, to inflict an unlawful injury upon any person or property, and it reasonably appears to the recipient of the threat that such threat could be carried out is guilty of a felony. (Pen. Code, § 11412.)

15) Defines "hate crime" as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more specified actual or perceived characteristics of the victim, including the victim's religion., where "religion" is defined as including all aspects of religious belief, observance, and practice and includes agnosticism and atheism. (Pen. Code, §§ 422.55, 422.56, subd. (g).)

16) Provides that a person, whether or not acting under color of law, shall not, by force or threat of force, willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, oppress, or threaten any other person in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right or privilege secured by the Constitution or laws of this state or by the Constitution or laws of the United States in whole or in part because of one or more of the actual or perceived characteristics of the victim, including the victim's religion. (Pen. Code, § 422.6, subd. (a).)

17) Provides that a person, whether or not acting under color of law, shall not knowingly deface, damage, or destroy the real or personal property of any other person for the purpose of intimidating or interfering with the free exercise or enjoyment of a right or privilege secured by the Constitution or laws of this state or by the Constitution or laws of the United States, in whole or in part because of one or more of the actual or perceived characteristics of the victim, including the victim's religion. (Pen. Code, § 422.6, subd. (b).)

18) Provides that every person who intentionally disturbs or disquiets any assemblage of people met for religious worship at a tax-exempt place of worship, by profane discourse, rude or indecent behavior, or by any unnecessary noise, either within the place where the meeting is held, or so near it as to disturb the order and solemnity of the meeting, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding $1,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail for a period not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (Pen. Code, § 302, subd. (a).)

This bill:

1) Provides that, within a 100-foot radius from an entrance or exit from a place of worship a person shall not, without consent, intentionally approach another person seeking to enter or exit a place of religious worship within 8 feet of that person to do either of the following:

   a) Pass a leaflet or handbill to, display a sign to, or engage in oral protest or education with the other person.

   b) Harass, obstruct, threaten, or intimidate the other person.

2) Provides that 8 feet shall be measured from the body of the person seeking to enter or exit a place of religious worship, or the exterior of a motor vehicle seeking to enter or exit a parking lot, to the body of, or any sign or object held by, another person.

3) Defines "place of religious worship" as any building, structure, or space that is used primarily for religious worship activities or to provide religious education or instruction. A "place of religious worship" shall include the parking lot and parking lot entrances, if the primary entrance to the building is through the parking lot, and the driveway and driveway entrances of any such building, structure, or space.

4) Provides that 100 feet shall be measured from the entrance or exit of the place of religious worship to the body of, or any sign or object held by, a person.

5) Provides that a first violation of the prohibition above is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one $1,000, imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

6) Provides that a second or subsequent violation of this section is punishable by a fine not to exceed $5,000, by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

7) Includes a severability clause.

Comments

California law safeguards the free exercise of religion and religious worship through a robust and well-established set of criminal statutes addressing a wide range of conduct. In 2001, the Legislature enacted AB 780 (Ortiz, Chapter 899, Statutes of 2001) which established a California FACE Act modeled closely after its federal counterpart, and as such included criminal penalties for conduct interfering with both religious and reproductive rights. Substantively, the California FACE Act sets forth 8 distinct crimes, three of which specifically apply to interference with persons or property damage at places of worship, and punishable as either misdemeanors or felonies depending on specified factors.

Perhaps the most comprehensive and well-defined criminal protections for religious freedom in California are its hate crime statutes, which include both standalone offenses and sentencing enhancements for specific conduct. Existing law defines "hate crime" as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more specified actual or perceived characteristics of the victim, including the victim's religion, where "religion" is defined as including all aspects of

religious belief, observance, and practice and includes agnosticism and atheism. The criminal statutes include a standalone wobbler prohibiting the use of force or threat of force to willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, oppress, or threaten any other person in the free exercise or enjoyment of a constitutional right, as well as an enhancement that allows other misdemeanors, if motivated by religious animus (or any other desire to interfere with constitutional rights), to be charged as felonies. Yet another provision adds up to three additional years to felony hate crime sentences for specified aggravating conduct, such as acting in concert, using a firearm in the commission of the offense, or having a prior hate crime conviction.

Citing an uptick in antisemitism and violence driven by religious animus, the author seeks to add to this body of law aimed at protecting the free exercise of religion. Specifically, this bill prohibits a person, within a 100-foot radius from an entrance or exit of a place of religious worship, from intentionally and nonconsensually approaching within eight feet of another person seeking to enter or exit a place of religious worship to do either of the following: (1) pass a leaflet, display a sign, or engage in oral protest or education with another person; or (2) harass, obstruct, threaten, or intimidate the other person or occupant. It is already generally unlawful to harass, threaten, or intimidate another person. A violation of this provision is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to $1000 and 6 months in jail for a first offense, and by a fine of up to $5,000 and a year in jail for a second or subsequent offense. The bill defines “place of religious worship” as any building, structure, or space that is used primarily for religious worship activities or to provide religious education or instruction, including their parking lots, parking lot entrances, if the primary entrance to the building is through the parking lot, and the driveway and driveway entrances of such building. Moreover, this bill specifies that 100 feet shall be measured from the entrance or exit of the place of religious worship to the body of, or any sign or object held by, a person, and 8 feet shall be measured from the body of the person seeking to enter or exit a place of religious worship, or the exterior of the occupied motor vehicle seeking to enter or exit a parking lot, to the body of, or any sign or object held by, another person.

This bill includes a legislative intent section stating that its substantive provisions are “aimed at making clear that conduct that intentionally obstructs a person’s lawful exercise of that person’s religious freedom under the California Constitution and United States Constitution is unlawful.” To that end, this bill’s findings go on to state that “the protection of persons from deliberate and physical interference with their access to places of worship may be accomplished without infringing on constitutionally protected speech or activity,” and is not intended to “seek to favor one viewpoint over another or to limit speech regarding any specific topic.” While these findings have no bearing on the measure’s ultimate constitutionality, they do

foreshadow the First Amendment analysis that is likely to be dispositive in that regard.

For a discussion of this issue, please see the analysis prepared by the Senate Committee on Public Safety.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

> Unknown, potentially significant court costs to adjudicate the new misdemeanor offense.
>
> The fiscal impact will depend on the number of people charged with the new offense and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately $10,500. Although the courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create demand for increased funding. The 2026-27 Budget provides $70 million to help pay for increased trial court operation costs (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).
>
> Unknown cost pressure on the counties depending on how the misdemeanor sentence is imposed. Actual costs will depend on the number of convictions and whether the punishment is incarceration, a fine, or both. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately $77,250. In 2021 Los Angeles County budgeted $1.3 billion for jail costs, including $89,580 per incarcerated person. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Jewish California (source)
30 Years After
88th Street Temple Church of God in Christ
Adas Torah
Adat Shalom
Adat Shalom Los Angeles
ADL
Agudath Israel of California
Agudath Israel of California
Ahavat Torah
American Jewish Committee - Los Angeles

American Jewish Committee - Northern California
American Jewish Committee - San Diego
B'Nai David-Judea Congregation
Bay Area Center to Counter Antisemitism
Bay Area Jewish Coalition Education & Advocacy
Bel Air Church
Beverly Hills Synagogue
Board of Rabbis of Southern California
Breath of Life Los Angeles
Breed Street Shul Project
Brotherhood Crusade
Cal-pac Annual Conference
California Jewish Democrats
California Sikh Council
Chai Marin
Congregation Kol Ami
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
Democrats for Israel Los Angeles
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
Faith and Community Empowerment
Greater Zion Church Family
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist of America, INC.
Hillel of San Diego
Hindu American Foundation
Hindu American Foundation, INC.
Hollywood Temple Beth El
Holocaust Museum LA
Hope the Mission
Iman Cultural Center
Israeli-American Council
JCAN
JCC Federation of San Luis Obispo
JCRC, Bay Area
JCRC, Santa Barbara County
JCRC, Jewish Long Beach
Jewish California
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Coalition of Berkeley
Jewish Community Relations Council of Sacramento
Jewish Democratic Club of Marin

Jewish Democratic Coalition of the Bay Area
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties
Jewish Family Service LA
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Bay Area
Jewish Federation Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Free Loan Association
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jewish Silicon Valley
Jewish War Veterans, Department of California
JFCS Long Beach and Orange County
Korean American Federation of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Baha'i Center
National Council of Jewish Women CA
National Council of Jewish Women- SF
National Council of Jewish Women-California
Northern California Jewish Labor Committee
Oakland Jewish Alliance
Osborne Neighborhood Church
Osbourne Neighborhood Church
Palo Alto Jewish Alliance
Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center
Progressive Zionists of California
ReNew UMC
Restauracion LA
Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel
SF Jews in School
Simon Wiesenthal Center
Sinai Temple

SLACDEC
Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
St Paul the Apostle Catholic Community
StandWithUs
Stephen Wise Temple, Los Angeles, CA
Temple Beth Hillel
Temple Beth-el
Temple Judea of Laguna Hills
Temple Ramat Zion
The Jewish Coalition of Berkeley
United Methodist Church
Valley Beth Shalom
West Angeles Church Community Development Corporation
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America
Westwood Presbyterian Church
Westwood United Methodist Church
Wilshire Boulevard Temple
Young Israel of Century City

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

1021 Jewish Workers for Justice
1021 Members for Palestine
ACLU California Action
Aroc Action
Bend the Arc California
CAIR California
California Teachers Association
California Public Defenders Association
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Harmony Law
Jewish Parents for Collective Liberation
Jewish Voice for Peace Santa Barbara
Jewish Voice for Peace, Sacramento Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace-South Bay
Justice2Jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union

Oakland Privacy
Orale: Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation, and Empowerment
Palestine Justice Coalition, Santa Cruz
Quit! (queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism)
Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights
San Francisco Public Defender
South Bay People Power
Workers Circle/Arbeter Ring of Northern California
Multiple Individuals

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-2, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: DeMaio, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Bryan, Castillo, Elhawary, Flora, Gallagher, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Kalra, Lee, Muratsuchi, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Ta

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
8/24/26 14:04:46

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2667
Author: Hadwick (R) and Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/22/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Menjivar, Niello, Richardson, Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Smallwood-Cuevas

SENATE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/24/26
AYES: McNerney, Ashby, Becker, Grayson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Vape products: household hazardous waste: advertising

SOURCE: Rural County Representatives of California

DIGEST: This bill requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to evaluate opportunities for the safe management of confiscated vape pens at a school; authorizes the management of confiscated vapes from schools; and prohibits anyone from selling, marketing, advertising, or distributing a vape product if the vape product appeals to minors, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/2026 would exempt schools transporting vapes to authorized hazardous waste management facilities from registration and manifest requirements, authorize household hazardous waste collection facilities to

accept a specified amount of acutely hazardous waste, remove the authorization for household hazardous waste collection facilities to disassemble vapes, and add contingency provisions with respect to AB 762 (Irwin) to add vape products, as described, to existing enforcement frameworks.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law establishes the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to authorize the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes throughout the wastes' life cycle. (42 United States Code (USC) §§ 6901 et seq.)

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) to authorize DTSC to regulate the management of hazardous wastes in California. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §§ 25100 et seq.)

2) Defines "hazardous waste" as waste, that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics:
   a) Causes, or significantly contributes to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or
   b) Poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, due to factors including, but not limited to, carcinogenicity, acute toxicity, chronic toxicity, bio accumulative properties, or persistence in the environment, when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. (HSC § 25141(b))

3) Defines hazardous waste as a federal RCRA hazardous waste if it meets any of the following criteria:
   a) It exhibits any of the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity, as defined;
   b) It is listed as a hazardous waste under federal regulation; or
   c) It is identified as a hazardous waste under state regulation, as specified. (22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 66261.100)

4) Defines "household hazardous waste" (HHW) as hazardous waste generated incidental to owning or maintaining a place of residence, but does not include waste generated in the course of operating a business at a residence. (HSC § 25218.1(e))

5) Establishes that counties and cities will provide services for the collection of HHW and that the state will provide an expedited and streamlined regulatory structure to facilitate the collection of HHW. (HSC § 25218)

6) Requires a household hazardous waste collection facility (HHWCF) to obtain a hazardous waste facilities permit, unless the HHWCF is a recycle-only facility that meets specified conditions. (HSC § 25218.8)

7) Enacts the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 (EWRA), which established a program for consumers to return, recycle, and ensure the safe and environmentally sound disposal of video display devices, such as televisions and computer monitors that are hazardous waste when discarded. (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 42460 et seq.)

8) Adds battery-embedded products to the EWRA. (PRC § 42463)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a HHWCF to rely on federal guidance and other provisions for the management of acutely hazardous waste for the purposes of determining how many vape pens and devices are accepted from very small quantity generators.

2) Authorizes a public agency, contractor of a public agency, or a registered hazardous waste transporter to transport vape pens and devices that were confiscated from students from a school that is a VSQG pursuant to an agreement between the school and local HHWCF.

3) Exempts a school transporting vape pens and devices confiscated from students from hazardous waste management registration and manifest requirements.

4) Authorizes a household hazardous waste collection facility to accept no more than 1 kilogram of acutely hazardous waste from a very small quantity generator (VSQG).

5) Authorizes a household hazardous waste collection facility to accept no more than 1 kilogram of extremely hazardous waste from a VSQG at a single time as long as it accepts a total of no more than 1,200 kilograms of non-acute hazardous waste and 12 kilograms of extremely hazardous waste from that VSQG in a calendar year.

6) Authorizes specified and separate accounting of non-acutely hazardous waste and acutely hazardous waste contained in vapes until DTSC adopts superseding

guidance or regulations and requires DTSC to provide written notice of the adoption of superseding guidance or regulations to Legislative Counsel.

7) Requires DTSC to evaluate opportunities to increase safety and convenience related to the management and disposal of vape pens and devices confiscated from students by a school, ensure the evaluation is consistent with RCRA, and identify recommendations that require future legislative action.

8) Defines "vape pen and device" to mean an electronic device that is powered by one or more removable or embedded batteries and that delivers solely, or a combination of, nicotine, cannabis, or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, hookah, or other delivery mechanism.

9) Prohibits a person from marketing, promoting, labeling, branding, advertising, distributing, offering for sale, or selling a vape product in this state by doing either of the following:
   a) Imitating a product that is not a vape product to conceal the nature of the vape product from adults, as specified; or
   b) Including interactive videogame capabilities within a vape product.

10) Authorizes a city, county, a city and county, or the state to enforce the prohibition on vape products, as specified, and impose civil liability on a person or entity in violation of this section in the amount of $1,000 for the first violation, $2,500 for the second violation, and $5,000 for the third and any subsequent violations.

11) Authorizes a city, county, a city and county, or the state to impose civil liability on a distributor, as defined, who violates the prohibition on vape products, as specified, in the amount of $50,000 per violation

12) Requires any civil penalties collected to be paid to the office of the city attorney, city prosecutor, district attorney, or Attorney General (AG), whichever office that brought the action.

13) Authorizes the penalties collected by the AG to be expended by the AG to enforce the prohibition on vape products, as specified, upon appropriation by the Legislature.

14) Requires that any person in violation of these provisions is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than $500.

15) Authorizes an enforcement agency to seize a product at a retail location or any other person's location and for that product to be deemed forfeited to the state if the enforcement agency discovers that a tobacco retailer or any of its agents or employees sell, offer for sale, or possess with the intent to sell or offer for sale a vape product prohibited by these provisions.

16) Requires the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) to suspend a license to engage in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products of any person with a license who is in violation of these provisions upon a second seizure and forfeiture and revoke a license upon a third seizure and forfeiture.

17) Provides contingent enactment provisions referencing AB 762 (Irwin), which bans disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation devices, to include disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation devices and the vape products prohibited by this bill in the existing enforcement framework for prohibited flavored tobacco products.

Background

Vapes as hazardous waste. Hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it potentially dangerous or harmful to human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is prohibited from being disposed of in the trash and must be properly transported and disposed of at permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facilities or at an authorized recycling facility.

Vapes are handheld, single-use or reusable electronic devices, typically powered by lithium-ion batteries, that vaporize a liquid containing nicotine or cannabis products. Vapes are known to carry and emit a variety of harmful substances, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, aldehydes, carbon monoxide, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).[1] Vapes are considered hazardous waste under RCRA at their end of life due to both the corrosive properties of the embedded lithium-ion battery and the residual substances in the cartridge if filled with liquid nicotine. Liquid nicotine is considered to be acutely hazardous, thus more stringent requirements for management apply. For vapes containing cannabis products, residue left in the cartridges is considered hazardous waste under California law.

When improperly disposed of, vapes can release these hazardous substances into the environment. The embedded lithium-ion batteries may also pose a fire or explosion risk when damaged. The processes associated with solid waste

[1] Constantin, A. and Mihălțan, FD. (2025). E-Cigarette and Environment.

collection, recycling and disposal during transport and at facilities can apply various stressors to lithium-ion batteries, increasing this risk.[2] The California Prodcut Stewardship Council conducted a survey on fires at waste management facilities in 2018 and found that 40% of reported fires were caused by lithium-ion batteries.[3] While evidence that lithium-ion batteries in vapes directly cause the fires experienced by refuse trucks and waste management facilities is difficult to come by, it is generally recognized that lithium-ion batteries have been responsible for some of these incidents and that vapes have the potential to ignite or explode.[3,4,5] State law requires vapes to be disposed of at a household hazardous waste collection facility (HHWCF), or other authorized hazardous waste facility.

Youth vaping. The use of vapes is prevalent amongst youth.[6] In 2024, it was reported that over 1.6 million minors partake in vaping.[7] In a state-wide survey of youth vaping in schools, of nearly 8,000 staff from 255 middle and high schools, 31.9% reported seeing students vaping at school.[8] Vapes are said to be aggressively marketed to young people, as many vapes exhibit features that can be appealing to minors.[9] There are a myriad of adverse physical and mental health impacts associated with vaping, and studies show that there is an increased risk for youth in developing these negative health outcomes.[9] Additionally, vapes that were intended to target minors present additional waste management challenges. To combat the risk that these vapes pose to minors and waste management facilities, this bill would ban vapes that imitate a product that is not a vape to conceal its nature, as specified, and vapes that include interactive videogame capabilities.

Confiscation of vapes in schools. Because the use of tobacco products and controlled substances are prohibited at schools, school staff are expected to confiscate vapes from students. Because waste vapes are considered hazardous waste, the school becomes a generator of hazardous waste. Typically waste vapes are required to be disposed of at a HHWCF, however, because schools are not classified as "households" under federal regulation (40 CFR 261.4 (b)(1)), it is understood that schools cannot dispose of vapes at HHWCFs and must abide by federal regulations as a hazardous waste generator. When vapes are treated as

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[2] Gausden, A. and Cerik, BC. (2024). Single-Use Vape Batteries: Investigating Their Potential as Ignition Sources in Waste and Recycling Streams.
[3] California Product Stewardship Council. (2018). Fire Incident Survey Results 4/9/18.
[4] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021). An Analysis of Lithium-ion Battery Fires in Waste Management and Recycling.
[5] U.S. Fire Administration. (2017). Electronic Cigarette Fires and Explosions in the United States 2009-2016.
[6] Al-Oudah, G.A., et. al. (2025). E-cigarettes and Vaping: A New Frontier in Youth Drug Prevention.
[7] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2025). Sound the Alarm: Youth Vaping Can Harm.
[8] Cole, A.G., et. al. (2022). California School Staff Reports of Seeing Students Vaping at School and Disciplinary Actions.
[9] Golder, S., et. al. (2025). Vaping and harm in young people: umbrella review.

hazardous waste instead of HHW, the required handling, transportation, storage, and management of that vape pen is more intensive than if it were classified as HHW.

The U.S. EPA has issued guidance for schools and businesses on how to safely dispose of e-cigarettes (vapes containing nicotine), and depending on the amount of vapes collected, designates the hazardous waste generator categories.[10] While this information can serve as a resource for entities that may inevitably possess vapes, it can be very challenging and expensive for schools to manage the vapes they collect in this manner. Previous legislation (AB 998, Hadwick, 2025) would have authorized schools to transport and manage confiscated vapes as household hazardous waste (HHW), but it is possible that this would have conflicted with federal regulations. The bill was held on the suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Because it may be challenging for schools to manage vapes as hazardous waste, this bill requires DTSC to evaluate opportunities that increase the safety and convenience for schools that need to manage and dispose of vapes, and identify recommendations that require future legislative action. Floor amendments would authorize HHWCFs to accept 1 kilogram of acutely hazardous waste (which allows for the acceptance of nicotine vapes), exempt schools from hazardous waste registration and manifest requirements, and adds contingency provisions to include AB 762 (Irwin) prohibited vape products, as described, in the existing enforcement framework for prohibited flavored tobacco products. Floor amendments also remove the authorization for HHWCFs to disassemble vape pens.

Comments

Purpose of Bill. According to the author, "Manufacturers are deceptively designing and marketing vapes to children. These vapes are disguised as everyday items, like school supplies or clothing. Some have features intentionally designed to increase dependency and addiction, like built-in video games. Schools are increasingly confiscating these vapes, yet they lack practical options to safely manage and dispose of them. Similarly, local household hazardous waste facilities receiving these vapes are unable to identify them and disassemble them, increasing costs and fire hazards.

[10] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2026). How to Safely Dispose of E-Cigarettes: Information for Schools and Small Businesses.

Assembly Bill 2667 cracks down on these dangerous devices by banning disguised and interactive vapes. It also gives schools and local governments the tools to safely manage and dispose of vape waste. This bill protects kids, supports schools, and ensures hazardous materials are handled responsibly."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) estimates ongoing costs of approximately $440,000 annually (Electronic Waste Recovery & Recycling Account) to evaluate opportunities for the collection and disposal of vapes confiscated from students by a school, identify legislative or regulatory recommendations, update its Permit by Rule regulation (which creates a process that allows generators of hazardous waste to treat certain wastes without having to go through the formal permitting process) to explicitly authorize vape disassembly, coordinate with and provide oversight to the state's Certified Unified Program Agencies (who administer the Permit by Rule program at the local level), coordinate with U.S. EPA, and other associated tasks.

- The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) estimates ongoing costs ranging from $239,000 to $463,000 annually (Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund) to notify licensees of the vape product prohibition in this bill, seize and destroy newly prohibited vape products that do not fall under CDTFA's existing authority for flavored tobacco products, suspend or revoke licenses, and handle appeals. CDTFA notes this bill may also result in a reduction in cannabis excise tax and cigarette and tobacco product tax revenues of an unknown amount due to a reduction in available vape products and an increase in untaxed black market sales of prohibited products, a reduction in electronic cigarette excise tax and sales and use tax revenues of an unknown amount due to seizures of prohibited vape products by enforcement agencies from tobacco retailers, and a reduction in licensing fee revenues due to an unknown number of suspensions or revocations of cigarette and tobacco products licenses for noncompliance with the vape product prohibition (Cannabis Tax Fund, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Compliance Fund, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Funds, General Fund, Local Revenue Fund 2011, Local Revenue Fund 1991, and Public Safety Fund).

- Forgone cannabis product license fee revenue as well as costs to the Department of Cannabis Control of an unknown but potentially significant amount (Cannabis Control Fund).

- The Department of Justice reports minor and absorbable costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/2026)

Rural County Representatives of California (Source)
A Voice for Choice Advocacy
Alameda County Office of Education
Association of California School Administrators
California Product Stewardship Council
Californians Against Waste
County of Santa Barbara
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority
League of California Cities
Los Angeles Unified School District
National Stewardship Action Council
Parents Against Vaping
Recology
Republic Services
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Rethinkwaste
Rural Counties Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority
Stopwaste
Swana California Chapters Legislative Task Force
Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency
Western Placer Waste Management Authority
Yuba-sutter Regional Waste Management Authority
Zero Waste Marin

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/2026)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-

Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Haney, Jackson, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Taylor McKie / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/24/26 10:57:07

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2689
Author: Ávila Farías (D), et al.
Amended: 6/22/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 10-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 6/30/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-1, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Low-income housing tax credits: lease nonrenewal: good cause

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill provides for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, for any low income building that is subject to an enforceable regulatory agreement with a government entity, good cause for a nonrenewal of a lease includes when both a household's income exceeds 140% of the area median income (AMI) for at least two years and the 30% of the households monthly income fair market rent, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizers, under the tax on the gross premiums of insurers, the personal income tax (PIT) Law, and the corporate tax (CT) Law, a state LIHTC that is calculated in partial conformity with the federal LIHTC and may only be claimed over a period of four years.

2) Allocates $70 million on an ongoing basis to the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) for the purposes of administering the LIHTC and adjusts this amount for inflation beginning in the 2002 calendar year, plus any unused amounts for the preceding calendar year and any amount returned in the calendar year.

3) Provides that an owner of a property financed using LIHTCs shall continue to be treated as occupied by a lower income household for purposes of the property tax welfare exemption if the occupants qualified as lower income (80% or less of AMI) when they first occupied the unit even if their income increases to 140% of AMI, adjusted for family size. However, the unit shall cease to be treated as a lower income unit if the income of the occupants of the unit increases above 140% of AMI, adjusted for family size.

This bill:

1) Provides for the LIHTC program, for any low income building that is subject to an enforceable regulatory agreement with a government entity, good cause for a nonrenewal of a lease includes when both a household's income exceeds 140% of AMI for at least two years and the 30% of the households monthly income exceeds the fair market rent for the county or the for the ZIP code, in which the unit is located.

2) Requires a property owner to provide specified notice to a tenant whose income exceeds 140% of AMI.

2) Requires a property owner to provide 90 days' notice prior to the expiration of the lease term if the basis for non-renewal of a lease is that a household's income has exceeded 140% of the AMI for two consecutive years and 30% of the household's monthly income exceeds the fair market rent for the county or the for the ZIP code, in which the unit is located.

Background

LIHTC. State and federal law allow a LIHTC to qualified taxpayers for incurring certain costs related to the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of low-income rental housing. In practice, low-income rental housing developers design projects and apply to the CTCAC for credits. If the CTCAC authorizes credits, the CTCAC enters a regulatory agreement with the housing developer that stipulates

income and rent restrictions. The CTCAC then reserves the credit amount for that application. Subsequently, the developer forms a partnership with investors that exchange equity financing for the credits, and the investors may then claim the credit over the authorized period. Rather than expecting the investment in a LIHTC project to produce income, investors rely on the credit to realize a return in the form of reducing their tax liabilities. The equity raised from this exchange lowers the financing costs for developers such that they can feasibly charge lower rents, thereby potentially expanding the supply of affordable rental housing.

There are two types of the LIHTC, the 9% credit and the 4% credit, which are awarded to projects that are non-federally subsidized or federally subsidized, respectively. The 9% credit is subject to a federally prescribed annual ceiling based on the population of a state; whereas, the 4% credit must have 50% of the project financed by federally tax-exempt bonds.

Comments

Author's statement. "Millions of Californians struggle to find and afford housing. However, the demand far outweighs the supply. Waitlists for public housing or federal housing voucher units can be extensive, with families often waiting months and even years before there is an open unit. Furthermore, current law does not provide a transition for tenants in deed-restricted units who begin to earn significantly more in annual income. AB 2689 would establish good cause for nonrenewal in households at 100% affordable housing sites for those tenants whose income exceeds 140% of the area median income (AMI) for at least 2 consecutive years. Tenants whose income grows to 140% of AMI would only have their leases not renewed if they could afford fair market rent, while paying 30% toward their rent. This in return would allow 100% affordable housing managers to transition higher income tenants out of units intended for the low-income families. This bill does not require affordable housing managers to transition over-income tenants – it only provides dignified metrics should they choose to do so. AB 2689 is about providing a fair, dignified process for affordable housing managers to transition units from over-income tenants to families who desperately need them."

Property Tax Welfare Exemption. Article XIII, Section 4(b) of the California Constitution authorizes the Legislature to exempt property used exclusively for religious, hospital, or charitable purposes, as specified, from taxation. Stemming from this authority, the Legislature implemented this "welfare exemption." To exempt certain activities from property taxes, AB 2144 (Filante, Chapter 1469, Statutes of 1989) added low-income housing developments operated by non-profit

organizations to this exemption because property tax funds "could better be used in furtherance of the goals of providing low-income housing." Generally, to qualify for the welfare exemption, the law requires that the rental housing be financed with specified tax-exempt bonds, government loans, or grants, or that the property's owner receives LIHTC. The welfare exemption extends to "units serving lower income households." To qualify, the State Board of Equalization has noted that a unit must be occupied by a lower income household (with a maximum income of 80% AMI).

In 2017, AB 1193 (Gloria, Chapter 756, Statutes of 2017) provided that, in cases where a property owner is eligible for the LIHTC, a unit shall continue to be treated as occupied by a lower income household if the occupants was lower income on the lien date in the fiscal year in which occupancy began and the unit continues to be rent restricted, notwithstanding an increase in the income of the occupants to 140% of AMI. However, under AB 1193, if the occupants' income increases over this threshold, the unit ceases to be treated as a lower income unit. This law was designed to provide income flexibility roughly in line with federal law governing the LIHTC.

Income Qualifying. The average income of a LIHTC project is 60% of AMI. To qualify for a LIHTC unit, tenants must income-qualify when first renting the unit. There are no federal tax laws limiting how much a tenant's income can increase once they are in a LIHTC unit. In addition, a developer can receive the property tax welfare exemption on any units where the tenant's income when first occupying the unit was 80% of AMI or less. State law allows a property owner to continue to receive the welfare exemption until the tenant's income reaches 140% of AMI. Once a tenant's income exceeds 140% of AMI, a property owner can no longer receive the property tax welfare exemption. There are no financial penalties in federal tax law governing LIHTC if a tenant's income exceeds 140% of AMI.

In a LIHTC project where there is a mix of lower income units and market rate units, federal law dictates the "The Available Unit Rule" (Rule). Under the Rule, a property owner is required to maintain the level of affordability agreed to receive the LIHTC. If development is required to have 20% of the unit's deed restricted to lower income units and a tenant in a deed-restricted units income exceeds 140% of AMI, the property owner must move that person to a market rate unit when one is available and replace the lower income unit with an income qualified tenant. In developments that are 100% affordable, developers cannot move tenants because all of the units are deed restricted to lower-income and a property owner cannot raise the rent if the tenant's income exceeds 140% of AMI because the unit is deed restricted to lower income. As a result, the property owner loses the property tax

welfare exemption on that unit. Forfeiting this subsidy can compromise the nonprofit's ability to support the operation on the development because the rents remain below market rent.

This bill gives a developer the option not to renew a tenant's lease if, for two years, their income exceeds 140% of AMI and they can rent a unit in the county or ZIP code in which they live and only pay 30% of their income toward rent. Housing costs are considered affordable if an individual pays 30% of their income toward the cost of housing. This policy would give property owners the option to fill a deed restricted lower income unit with an income qualified tenant, only if an existing tenant's income has grown to above moderate income and renting a unit in the private market allows them to continue to keep their housing costs at an affordable level. The intent of this bill is to ensure that scarce, state-subsidized units are made available to tenants who are lower-income, while ensuring that tenants whose incomes grow to more than triple the income required to initially qualify for a lower income unit are not displaced in high-cost markets. Tenants whose income grows to 140% of AMI would only have their leases not renewed if they could afford fair market rent, while paying 30% toward their rent. This ensures that tenants' housing costs remain affordable. Owners would notify tenants when their income reaches 140% of AMI so they can begin preparing for a market rate rental, including saving up for a security deposit and any other moving expenses.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/15/26)

California Housing Partnership

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/15/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-1, 5/28/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz,

Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Rivas
NOES: Lee
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Bryan, Flora, Mark González, Ortega, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Stefani, Zbur

Prepared by: Alison Hughes / HOUSING / (916) 651-4124
7/30/26 14:49:28

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2694
Author: Alvarez (D) and Pacheco (D), et al.
Amended: 7/6/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-11, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) modifies the existing community college district baccalaureate degree program by authorizing program duplication if there is no substantially similar program offered at the California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) within the geographic region; and 2) makes several technical changes, increasing required demonstration by an applicant of specified academic performance benchmarks, decreasing the percentage of baccalaureate programs that may be offered by a community college district, and requiring annual reporting to the Legislature.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Differentiates the missions and functions of public and independent institutions of higher education. Under these provisions:

a) The primary mission of the CSU is to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, including teacher education. The CSU is authorized to establish two-year programs only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees and the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors (BOG). The CSU is also authorized to jointly award the doctoral degree with the UC and with one or more independent institutions of higher education.

b) The UC provides undergraduate and graduate instruction and has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over graduate instruction in the professions of law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. The UC is also the primary state-supported academic agency for research.

c) The independent institution of higher education requires undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with their respective missions.

d) The mission and function of the CCC are to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level, and the CCC is authorized to grant the associate degrees. The CCCs are also required to offer learning supports to close learning gaps, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level. (Education Code (EC) § 66010.4)

2) Authorizes the CCC BOG, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish baccalaureate degree programs that do not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program offered by the CSU or UC. Allows for the approval of 30 CCC baccalaureate degree programs per academic year. Current law further requires the CCC Chancellor to consult with and seek feedback from the CSU Chancellor, the UC President, and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities on proposed baccalaureate degree programs, as specified, and establishes a mechanism for the assessment, consultation, and approval of programs where duplication is identified, as specified. (EC § 78040 et seq.)

3) Requires the CSU Trustees to ensure that any changes in the admission criteria for campus admission comply with specified consultation, public meeting, notification and disclosure requirements, and prohibits any change from becoming effective until one year has elapsed, or six months, if the change is based upon the resources of the local service area of the affected campus.

Applies these requirements to all changes in the admission criteria that affect eligibility of local service area applicants, including changes to transfer requirements and determinations regarding impaction of majors. (EC § 89030.5)

This bill:

1) Modifies the eligibility and approval process for a community college district participating in the statewide CCC baccalaureate degree program.

2) Adds conditions for eligibility for a district participating in the CCC baccalaureate degree program to additionally satisfy either of the following:

   a) Demonstrate, in its application, that it meets or exceeds performance benchmarks and goals for associate degree and certificate completion, as established by the CCC BOG.

   b) If the district has not yet met the required benchmarks and goals for associate degree programs, submit a board-adopted improvement plan with measurable milestones consistent with the district's obligations under the strategic plan of the CCCs.

3) Prohibits a district from offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula *substantially similar*, instead of *already* offered, to a program offered by the CSU or the UC.

4) Allows the offering of a CCC baccalaureate degree program that is substantially similar where the CSU or UC does not enroll students from that geographic region in the same degree pathway or where documented unmet regional workforce needs justify the program.

5) When seeking authorization, includes in the list of information required for submission for review by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and CCC BOG, documentation demonstrating that the district meets the attainment eligibility requirements including the performance benchmarks and goals for associate degree and certificate completion for the community college district, or where applicable, the board-adopted improvement plan.

6) Reduces the total number of baccalaureate degree programs that may be offered by a district, at any time, from less than 25%to 15% of the total number of associate degree programs offered by the district.

7) Removes the requirement that the CCCCO notify and send materials to the CSU Chancellor, UC President, and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities about the proposed baccalaureate degree program.

8) Removes the current process by which CSU or UC may assess and object to a program that they believe duplicates a UC or CSU existing degree program and instead requires that the CCC Chancellor consult with and seek feedback from the CSU Chancellor and UC President regarding proposed baccalaureate degree programs that may be substantially similar to CSU or UC programs offered within the geographic region of the proposing district. If the CSU or UC believes there is substantial similarity within the geographic region, they may submit a written objection with supporting evidence. Upon receipt of an objection, the CCCCO is required to convene the applicant and the objector to establish a written agreement before the program is approved.

9) Requires the CCCCO to annually report to the Legislature, no later than March 1, on the status of all approved baccalaureate degree programs, the approved information for each approved program, including student outcome data and evidence of achieving the specified attainment goals.

10) Defines all of the following terms for purposes of the bill:

    a) "Documented unmet regional workforce need" means evidence, showing demand for graduates in the field that is not met by existing baccalaureate degree programs within the geographic region, as demonstrated through labor market analyses prepared by the California Community Colleges Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research using labor market information and analyses published by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The labor market analyses shall consider projected employment demand, annual job openings, workforce supply, employer demand, wage data, and other indicators relevant to the proposed baccalaureate degree program.
    b) "Geographic region" means the primary service area of the community college district as defined by Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations or as otherwise defined by the CCCCO.

c) "Substantially similar" means that the proposed baccalaureate degree program's curriculum, learning outcomes, and program objectives are materially overlapping with those of an existing CSU or UC baccalaureate degree program offered within the geographic region of the community college district such that the programs serve indistinguishable academic and workforce purposes.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, "California's economic future depends on our ability to meet regional workforce demands while expanding equitable access to higher education. AB 2694 ensures that community college bachelor's degree programs remain responsive, affordable, and aligned with local labor market needs. By clarifying outdated statutory barriers, this bill helps students—especially those who are place-bound or underserved—access high-quality, four-year degree opportunities in their communities."

Differentiation of mission. The state has four segments of higher education: three public and one private. Each plays a vital and unique role for the state and its students. Their mission statements are outlined in state statute. The CCCs are to have an open admission policy and bear the most extensive responsibility for lower-division undergraduate instruction. Its primary area of mission includes academic and vocational instruction leading to associate degrees and university transfer, career technical education, and remedial education. The primary mission of the CSU is undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree. The UC was granted the sole authority to offer doctoral degrees and is the state's primary research institution. Despite the differentiation of mission, the Legislature has authorized the CSU and CCCs to go beyond their original mission to offer doctoral degrees and baccalaureate degree programs, respectively, so long as programs do not duplicate those offered by the other segments with primary jurisdiction. This bill would narrow the prohibition on duplication by permitting substantially similar programs under specified circumstances, raising the broader policy question of how much flexibility should be afforded before the distinction between segment missions begin to erode. Further expansion of CCC baccalaureate degree authority, as proposed in this bill, would signal the Legislature's willingness to allow CCCs to potentially deviate further from their core mission and duplicate programs offered by a segment with primary jurisdiction.

Existing CCC Bachelor's program. SB 850 (Block, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014) authorized the BOG, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish a CCC baccalaureate degree pilot program. The pilot program included 15 participating CCC districts to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs, as long as it did not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC. The original pilot led to the statewide authorization established by AB 927 (Medina, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021), which allows the CCC BOG to approve qualifying programs twice a year. Today, as reported on the CCCCO website, there are more than 50 approved CCC baccalaureate programs statewide, primarily in applied and workforce-related fields such as health care, industrial technology, and public safety. Specific degree offerings include respiratory care, mortuary science, industrial automation, and public safety management. These programs are intended to address unmet regional workforce needs rather than broad expansion into traditional academic fields of study. Since 2017, approximately 1,893 students have attained a CCC bachelor's degree, with 293 completed in the 2023-24 academic year. This bill broadens the circumstances under which community colleges may offer programs that overlap with CSU or UC offerings.

Growing tension over duplication. This bill modifies the existing consultation process by eliminating the requirement that the CCCCO provide application materials to the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities and replacing the current duplication review process with one requiring the CCCCO to consult with the CSU and UC and convene the parties to reach a written agreement when an objection is raised. These changes shift the process from a formal review of potential duplication to one that places greater emphasis on consultation and negotiated resolution across the public higher education segments.

The debate surrounding CCC baccalaureate degrees has increasingly moved away from the administrative approval process established in statute to the legislative process. Existing law establishes an administrative process intended to evaluate proposed CCC baccalaureate degree programs based on objective criteria, including workforce need and program duplication. Since enactment of the statewide program, disagreements regarding program duplication have resulted not only in formal objections during the Chancellor's review process, but also in district-specific legislation seeking authority to establish individual baccalaureate degree programs. In addition, community college districts have increasingly sought letters of support from Members of the Legislature as part of their applications, reflecting the growing role legislative advocacy has played in what was originally

intended to be an evidence based administrative review process. The issue is not whether CCCs should continue offering bachelor's degrees, but rather how duplication, workforce need, and student access should be evaluated.

Changes to program duplication standard. As mentioned, existing law generally prohibits a CCC from offering a baccalaureate degree that duplicates one already offered by CSU or UC. That prohibition serves two purposes. First, it preserves the differentiated missions established within California's higher education system. Second, it encourages public institutions to coordinate program offerings instead of competing for the same students. This bill would replace the current statewide duplication standard with one based largely on geographic region, allowing substantially similar programs where the CSU or UC does not enroll students from that region or where documented regional workforce need exists. The bill defines "substantially similar" to mean programs whose curriculum, learning outcomes, and objectives are materially overlapping such that they serve indistinguishable academic and workforce purposes. Under current law, "already offered" is undefined, establishing a statutory definition for "substantially similar" provides greater clarity regarding the standard applied during implementation. As a result, a CCC could be authorized to offer a degree that is already available elsewhere in the state so long as the statutory conditions are satisfied.

Workforce evidence. This bill would allow a community college district to offer a baccalaureate degree program that is substantially similar to a CSU or UC program where documented unmet regional workforce needs justify the program. A prior version of the bill defined documented unmet regional workforce need as evidence determined by the CCCCO. Given that this determination may be used to justify approval of a program that is substantially similar to one offered by the CSU or UC, those determinations should be based on objective workforce information. Senate Education Committee amendments made changes to the bill so that determinations regarding unmet regional workforce need rely on labor market information produced by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency as a neutral workforce entity, rather than solely left to CCCCO's discretion.

Defining "geographic region." The bill replaces the existing statewide duplication standard with one based on whether a substantially similar CSU or UC program exists within the "geographic region" served by the proposing CCC district. The bill defines geographic region as the primary service area of the CCC district, as defined in Title 5 in the California Code of Regulations or as otherwise defined by the CCCCO. CSU and UC campuses often serve students from multiple CCC districts and throughout the state. Given that duplication analysis depends on how a

geographic region is defined, the proposed definition may benefit from clearer parameters for defining that region.

Conditions eligibility on student attainment. Existing law focuses primarily on whether a proposed baccalaureate degree program addresses an unmet workforce need while avoiding duplication. This bill adds a new CCC district eligibility requirement by conditioning participation in the statewide baccalaureate degree program on a CCC district demonstrating that it meets specified associate degree and certificate completion benchmarks or alternatively, adopting a board approved improvement plan with measurable milestones. In doing so, the bill links expansion of baccalaureate degree authority to a district's performance in carrying out its existing community college mission. The inclusion of an alternative improvement plan recognizes that districts may be at different stages of improving student outcomes while still seeking to expand bachelor's degree opportunities. It ensures that CCC districts demonstrate success in serving students through their existing associate degree and certificate programs before expanding into upper-division instruction. The practical effect of the eligibility requirement will depend largely on how board adopted improvement plans are evaluated during the approval process.

Impact on CCCs core mission. In previous discussions around authorizing the offering of CCC baccalaureate degrees, concerns were raised that broadening the CCC mission would diminish attention to transfer, associate degree completion, remedial education goals, and career technical education. In an effort to address this concern and limit potential impacts on the CCCs' core mission of the CCC, as well as on existing associate degree programs at local campuses, existing law established by AB 927 limits the number of programs a CCC may offer to no more than 25% of the number of associate degree programs offered at the college. This bill reduces that cap from 25% to 15% of a district's associate degree programs, reflecting an effort to balance additional bachelor's degree authority with preservation of the CCCs critical mission.

Alternative solutions to expand access. If it is the desire of the Legislature to expand access to baccalaureate degree programs, more effective and efficient alternatives do not require a departure from the CCC's mission to expand and streamline bachelor's degree pathways between CCCs and public or nonprofit universities. There are numerous examples of successful CCC/CSU pathway partnerships across the state, including Sonoma State University's (SSU) liberal studies bachelor's degree completion program, which provides upper-division instruction to transfer students taught by SSU faculty on the Mendocino

Community College campus. This model brings the university to CCC students, building on the strengths of each segment. Further, in its recommendation for alternatives to the original CCC baccalaureate degree pilot program, the LAO's analysis notes that improving alignment between CCC and the universities could increase the number of CCC students who ultimately obtain a bachelor's degree and reduce the amount of time students take to obtain their degree. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report asserts that CCC and university pathways could not only be more cost-effective but also benefit more students (including place-bound students), thereby having a more widespread impact. Such models may address geographic access concerns without requiring CCCs to independently replicate university programs.

Higher education coordination. All of California's public education institutions share a commitment to work together to ensure that the various parts of the system work for all Californians. The assignment of distinct missions is important as it helps to justify allocation of state resources for three separate public university systems (CCC, CSU, and UC), contain growth in costs, and facilitate college access for all eligible California students. Although the Legislature recently established the California Education Interagency Council to improve coordination across California's education systems, California no longer has an entity charged with statewide higher education planning and coordination of institutional missions, academic program development, and long-range postsecondary policy following the elimination of the California Postsecondary Education Commission in 2011. As a result, significant changes to California's higher education framework are increasingly considered through individual legislative proposals rather than through a comprehensive statewide planning process, which could result in an uncoordinated and fragmented system. As the Legislature considers changes to the statewide approval process, continued coordination among the segments will remain important to ensuring that expansion of CCC baccalaureate programs complements, rather than fragments, California's broader system of higher education.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- The Community College Chancellor's Office indicates that the bill would not result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs to participating community college districts (CCDs) as the bill would operate within the fiscal conditions already established in statute for baccalaureate degree

programs offered at community colleges. Additionally, the Community College Chancellor's Office indicates that while the bill may lead to an overall increase in the number of new baccalaureate degree programs being approved, it cannot increase per-student costs as current statute ties funding for these programs to the current community college marginal rate for a full-time equivalent student. Further, community college districts must demonstrate full financial and operational capacity, including staffing, student supports, and long-term sustainability, before receiving authorization to offer a baccalaureate degree program.

- Depending on the number of new community college baccalaureate programs that are authorized as a result of this bill, it could impact enrollment across UC and CSU campuses and pose significant General Fund cost pressures.

- The Community College Chancellor's Office may incur minor General Fund costs to complete the annual report and provide technical assistance.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges
Allan Hancock College
Antelope Valley Community College District
Association of California Community College Administrators
Barstow Community College
Cabrillo Community College
Calbright College
California Association for Alcohol/drug Educators
California Community College Baccalaureate Association
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Cerritos College
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Chaffey College
Citrus College
Clovis Community College
Coalinga College
Coast Community College District
College of Marin
College of the Canyons
College of the Desert
College of the Redwoods

College of the Sequoias
College of the Siskiyous
Columbia College
Community College League of California
Contra Costa Community College District
Copper Mountain College
Cuesta College
De Anza College
El Camino College
Evergreen Valley College
Feather River College
Foothill College
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Fresno City College
Gavilan College
Glendale Community College
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Hartnell College
Imperial Valley College
Kern Community College District
Lake Tahoe Community College
Lassen Community College
Lemoore College
Long Beach City College
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Community College District
Los Angeles Pierce College
Madera Community College
Mendocino College
Merced College
Miracosta College
Modesto Junior College
Mt. San Antonio College
Mt. San Jacinto Community College
North Orange Community College District
North Orange County Community College District
Ohlone College
Palo Verde College
Palomar Community College District
Pasadena Area Community College District

Peralta Community College District
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Reedley College
Rio Hondo College
Riverside Community College
Riverside Community College District
San Bernardino Community College District
San Diego City College
San Diego Community College District
San Diego Continuing Education
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
San Francisco Community College District
San Jose City College
San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
San Mateo County Community College District
Santa Monica College
Santa Rosa Junior College
Shasta College
Sierra College
Solano Community College
South Orange County Community College District
Southwestern College
Southwestern Community College District
State Center Community College District
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Taft College
Ventura County Community College District
Victor Valley College
Victor Valley Community College District
West Hills Community College District
West Valley-Mission Community College District
Yosemite Community College District
Yuba College
Yuba Community College District

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

California Faculty Association
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
University of California

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The CCCCO states in their letter of support submitted to this Committee, in part, "AB 2694 recognizes that many community college students are place-bound learners, including working adults, caregivers, and first-generation students who cannot relocate or commute long distances to pursue a bachelor's degree. For these students, the existence of a program elsewhere in the state does not necessarily translate into meaningful access. Current transfer pathways remain critically important, but they alone have not been sufficient to address persistent workforce shortages. AB 2694 expands opportunities for students who may otherwise stop out, delay completion, or leave the state altogether, allowing them to advance their education while remaining connected to their communities.

"By expanding affordable and accessible baccalaureate degree opportunities, AB 2694 also helps address the financial barriers that prevent many students from pursuing a bachelor's degree. Community college baccalaureate degree programs provide one of the most affordable pathways to a four-year degree in California, helping reduce tuition costs and student borrowing while addressing access barriers for low-income students. Expanding lower-cost bachelor's degree pathways through community colleges can help increase statewide degree attainment and economic mobility without imposing the same level of financial burden often associated with traditional university pathways."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In their letter in opposition submitted to this Committee the CSU, argues, in part, "CSU believes that any proposal that significantly expands the Community Colleges' baccalaureate degree authority should include, at minimum, statewide duplication standards to ensure the efficient use of state resources, demonstration of meeting a clear workforce need, and a prohibition on substantially similar programs where CSU or UC programs are already accessible and effectively serving the region. Community colleges should demonstrate that they are meeting performance benchmarks for their core mission, including associate degree completion and transfer to four-year institutions, before offering new baccalaureate degree programs. We should also require annual reporting on the status and completion rates of these programs. Finally, proposals should include a full fiscal analysis across higher education segments and K-12 to understand how these degree expansions will impact Prop. 98 funding distributions and each segment's core mission. Legislators should consider whether Prop. 98 funding should be used for bachelor's degree programs, and if so, whether the CSU should also be able to access Prop. 98 funding for its own baccalaureate degree program. The state should support the expansion of baccalaureate degree programs through partnership programs, including clear limits and written agreement when

programs are substantially similar, while continuing to bolster each segment's core mission."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-11, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Ellis, Gallagher, Johnson, Macedo, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bryan, Dixon, Flora, Gabriel, Muratsuchi, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/15/26 11:13:38

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2697
Author: Pellerin (D)
Amended: 4/13/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 7-3, 6/8/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Smallwood-Cuevas
NOES: Menjivar, Niello, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-9, 5/11/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Cannabis: drive-throughs

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill permits a local jurisdiction to allow a cannabis retailer or microbusiness licensee who conducts storefront retail sales to sell cannabis or cannabis products in a drive-through, located at the retail establishment if specified conditions are met.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Enacts the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) to provide for a comprehensive regulatory framework for the cultivation, distribution, transport, storage, manufacturing, processing, and sale of medicinal and adult-use cannabis. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 26000 *et seq.*)

2) Establishes the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) within the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for purposes of administering and enforcing MAUCRSA. (BPC § 26010)

3) Requires the DCC to make rules and regulations as necessary to implement, administer, and enforce its duties under MAUCRSA, as specified. (BPC § 26013)

4) Authorizes the DCC to issue a citation to a licensee or unlicensed person for violating any provision of MAUCRSA. (BPC § 26031.5)

5) Permits a local jurisdiction, if specified conditions are met, to allow for any of the following:

   a) Smoking, vaporizing, and ingesting of cannabis or cannabis products on the premises of a licensed retailer or microbusiness that has been granted authority by a local jurisdiction to engage in onsite cannabis consumption

   b) Preparation or sale of noncannabis food or beverage products in compliance with all applicable provisions of the California Retail Food Code, by a licensed retailer or microbusiness in the area where the consumption of cannabis is allowed.

   c) Live musical or other performances on the premises of a licensed retailer or microbusiness in the area where the consumption of cannabis is allowed, and the sale of tickets for those performances. (BPC § 26200(g)(1))

6) Prohibits cannabis or cannabis products purchased by a customer from leaving a licensed retail premises unless they are placed in an opaque package. (BPC § 26070.1)

This bill:

1) Authorizes a local jurisdiction to permit a retailer or microbusiness licensee that conducts storefront retail sales from a premises to sell cannabis or cannabis products to a customer in a motor vehicle in a drive-through on the premises.

2) Requires drive-through sales to occur through a fixed-pane security window with a security drawer or similar secure transfer mechanism that is part of a

building located within the premises.

3) Exempts a retailer or microbusiness licensee that conducted retail sales through a drive-through in compliance with state and local law before January 1, 2027, from the provisions of this bill.

4) States that the provisions of this bill do not apply to a licensee that conducts retail sales exclusively through delivery, or a licensee that does not maintain a premises open to the public for retail sales.

5) Requires any retail cannabis or cannabis product sales through a drive-through comply with the requirements of MAUCRSA and any regulations adopted by the DCC.

6) States that the provisions of this bill do not limit the authority of a local jurisdiction to regulate drive-through sales, as specified.

Comments

Retail sales of Cannabis and Cannabis Products. To sell cannabis or cannabis products, an individual must be a licensed retailer or microbusiness. There are two types of retail licenses: Type 9) non-storefront retailer which is delivery only and Type 10) a storefront retailer. A storefront retailer is one that has a physical location where cannabis goods are sold. Storefront retailers can also deliver cannabis goods if all DCC regulations and requirements are met. A microbusiness license holder is one that combines three or more of the following activities: cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, or retail sales (storefront or non-storefront). This bill would authorize a licensed retailer or microbusiness that conducts retail sales, to sell cannabis or cannabis products through a drive through, which must be located on the licensed retails premises. Retail sales of cannabis via a drive-through will only be permitted if a local jurisdiction allows it. This bill does not create a new license type, simply adds to the existing methods of providing consumers with access to legally purchased cannabis or cannabis products.

DCC currently permits a non-storefront retailer to conduct sales exclusively by delivery. Delivery of cannabis goods must be performed by a delivery employee of the licensed retailer. Cannabis deliveries must abide by the same requirements for retail sales including age/customer verification, restricted sale hours, among others. Curbside delivery, a valuable relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, was formally

adopted in regulations in 2022; thereby permanently allowing curbside delivery of cannabis or cannabis products from a licensed retailer or microbusiness authorized to engage in storefront sales. Curbside delivery is authorized if the cannabis goods that have been purchased by a customer are delivered to the customer in a vehicle parked immediately outside the licensed retail premises. Curbside delivery of cannabis goods must occur under video surveillance. Retail employees engaging in curbside delivery must verify each customer's age. Licensed retailers who are only authorized to engage in retail sales through delivery only may not conduct sales through curbside delivery.

DCC's current regulations expressly prohibit the sale of cannabis goods through a pass-out window or a slide-out tray to the exterior of the licensed premises. However, the regulations provide an exemption for those commercial cannabis businesses that were approved by their local jurisdiction to have a drive-in or drive-through window or had applied for and subsequently received approval prior to June 1, 2018.

This bill would expressly authorize a licensed retailer or microbusiness who conducts retail cannabis sales to conduct retail cannabis sales through a drive-through window located on the premises. Sales must occur through a fixed-pane security window with a security drawer. Similar to delivery only retail sales, this bill would prohibit a non-storefront retailer from providing sales through a drive-through window. This bill would authorize, but not require, the DCC to establish regulations regarding the sales of cannabis through drive-throughs if necessary. Because there was a period, when prior iterations of regulators in the cannabis legal market were silent on the drive-through authorization, there are a handful of retailers that have previously been authorized by their local jurisdictions to provide retail sales through a drive-through window. The number of retailers with drive-throughs is likely not tracked by the DCC, as no separate license is required for a retail establishment with a drive-through. As currently drafted, this bill would grant a cannabis retailer with a drive-through that was locally authorized prior to January 1, 2027, to be exempt from the requirements that the sales occur through a fixed-pane window with a security drawer.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/23/26)

A Therapeutic Alternative
California Cannabis Industry Association
California Cannabis Operators Association

California NORML
Cannabis Distribution Association
Chucks Wellness Center
City of Tulare
Dixon Wellness Cannabis Collective
Good Farmers Great Neighbors
Kiva Confections
Napa Cannabis Collective
Nug, INC.
Woodland Cannabis Dispensary

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/23/26)

Prevention Policy Group
Public Health Institute

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Supporters note "Adding drive through would create another consumer-friendly option for California consumers to access safe and legal cannabis, provided the local jurisdiction that approves the storefront retail operation further approves that retail location to offer this option. Further, it would allow a cannabis storefront retailer to provide the same level of service as curbside pickup, with the added benefit of not having employees exit the perimeter of the secured retail location."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Opponents note, "This proposal would normalize and further commercialize cannabis sales in a manner that encourages convenience-based and impulse purchasing. Drive-through retail is specifically designed to reduce friction in the purchase process. It contributed to the massive increases in fast-food consumption that have contributed to the obesity epidemic. For an intoxicating product, making purchases easier, faster, and more automatic risks increasing consumption and undermining the careful safeguards California has tried to build around cannabis sales. State regulatory rules established after Proposition 64 had banned marijuana drive-thrus unless a dispensary had a permit application submitted before June 2018."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 55-9, 5/11/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin,

Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schultz, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Bains, DeMaio, Dixon, Hadwick, Muratsuchi, Patterson, Ramos, Sanchez, Ta
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Boerner, Castillo, Flora, Gabriel, Gallagher, Lowenthal, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
6/24/26 16:39:41

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2713
Author: Wicks (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 8-0, 6/15/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California AI Transparency Act: system provenance data

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill reworks certain provisions of the recently enacted California AI Transparency Act (CAIT) that apply to large online platforms.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 refine provisions related to the user interface that must be provided by large online platforms and clarify the requirements as they relate to downloading of personal information.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the California AI Transparency Act, which becomes operative, in part, on August 2, 2026, and requires certain "covered providers" to make an artificial intelligence (AI) detection tool available at no cost by which a person can assess whether content was created or altered by the provider's GenAI system. (Business (Bus.) & Profession (Prof.) Code § 22757 et seq.)

2) Requires a "covered provider," a person that creates, codes, or otherwise produces a generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) system that has over 1

million monthly visitors or users and is publicly accessible within the geographic boundaries of the state, to offer users the option to include in AI-generated image, video, or audio content created by its own generative AI system a manifest disclosure that meets specified criteria, including that it identifies the content as AI-generated content. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3(a).)

3) Requires a covered provider to include in AI-generated image, audio, and video content created by its generative AI system a latent disclosure that is detectable by the tool specified above and is, to the extent technically feasible, permanent or extraordinarily difficult to remove. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3(b).)

4) Prohibits a covered provider from doing any of the following in carrying out the duties above:

   a) Collect or retain personal information when a person utilizes the covered provider's AI detection tool, except that it may collect and retain the contact information of a person who submitted feedback.
   b) Retain any content submitted to the AI detection tool for longer than is necessary to comply with this law. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.2(c).)

5) Requires a large online platform, starting January 1, 2027, to do one of the following:

   a) Detect whether any provenance data that is compliant with widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body is embedded into or attached to content distributed on the large online platform.
   b) Provide a user interface to disclose the availability of system provenance data that reliably indicates that the content was generated or substantially altered by a GenAI system or captured by a capture device. The user interface shall make clearly and conspicuously available to users information sufficient to identify the content's authenticity, origin, or history of modification, including specified information such as whether provenance data is available.
   c) Allow a user to inspect all available system provenance data that is compliant with widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body in an easily accessible manner by any of several specified means. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3.1(a).)

6) Prohibits, starting January 1, 2027, a large online platform from, to the extent technically feasible, knowingly stripping any system provenance data or digital signature that is compliant with widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body from content uploaded or distributed on the large online platform. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.3.1(b).)

7) Provides that violators of the above provisions are liable for a civil penalty in the amount of $5,000 per violation to be collected in a civil action filed by the Attorney General, a city attorney, or a county counsel. Each day in violation is deemed a discrete violation. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.4.)

8) Provides that the CAIT Act does not apply to any product, service, website, or application that provides exclusively non-user-generated video game, television, streaming, movie, or interactive experiences. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.5.)

This bill:

1) Reworks provisions of the CAIT Act that apply to large online platforms, making stylistic and technical changes.

2) Allows a large online platform to permit users to download content provenance data directly from the platform, in a format that cannot be easily integrated into unrelated content, rather than downloading content with provenance data attached as currently provided in the CAIT Act.

3) Clarifies that the obligations imposed on these platforms shall not be construed to require them to maintain, display, or allow a user to download personal information.

4) Prohibits a large online platform from knowingly stripping system provenance data or a digital signature from content a user *downloads* from the large online platform.

Background

The rapid advancement of AI technology, specifically the wide-scale introduction of GenAI models, has made it drastically cheaper and easier to produce synthetic content, audio, images, text, and video recordings that are not real, but that are so realistic that they are virtually impossible to distinguish from authentic content. One method that has been increasingly relied upon is embedding into content

certain "provenance data," which is data that is embedded into digital content, or that is included in the content's metadata, for the purpose of verifying the digital content's authenticity, origin, or history of modification.

Last session, the Legislature passed the CAIT Act, which, beginning August 2, 2026, regulates provenance data disclosure in AI-generated content. "Covered providers" are required to embed latent provenance disclosures in content generated by their GenAI systems and to offer manifest disclosures. Providers are required to make available an AI detection tool at no cost to the user that meets certain criteria, including that it allows a user to assess whether content was created or altered by the covered provider's system. Last year, AB 853 (Wicks, Chapter 674, Statutes of 2025) bolstered the CAIT Act by establishing similar transparency requirements on large online platforms, capture device manufacturers, and GenAI system hosting platforms.

This bill reworks provisions added by AB 853 that apply to large online platforms. The bill is author-sponsored and supported by the Center for AI and Digital Policy. No timely opposition was received.

Comments

Last session, the Legislature responded to some of these issues by passing the CAIT Act, SB 942 (Becker, Chapter 291, Statutes of 2024), which is set to become operative, in part, later this year. The CAIT Act imposes obligations on "covered providers," persons that create, code, or otherwise produce a GenAI system that has over 1 million monthly visitors or users and is publicly accessible within the geographic boundaries of the state. It requires such providers to make an AI detection tool available at no cost by which a person can assess whether content was created or altered by the provider's GenAI system.

Covered providers are required to include a latent disclosure in AI-generated image, video, or audio content that is created by their GenAI system that is detectable using the above tool, and that is, to the extent technically feasible, permanent or extraordinarily difficult to remove. This latent disclosure must identify the provider, the tool, and the time and date of the content's creation or alteration. Covered providers are also required to provide users making such content with their system with the option to include a manifest disclosure that identifies it as AI-generated content.

Last year, AB 853 bolstered the CAIT Act by establishing similar transparency requirements on large online platforms, capture device manufacturers, and GenAI system hosting platforms.

This bill seeks to rework provisions of the Act added by AB 853 that apply to large online platforms and respond to some concerns raised by stakeholders. It includes a number of technical and clarifying amendments, including extension of the disclosure requirements to provenance data embedded into or attached to content, and provenance data otherwise associated with the content.

Currently, the law provides several options for platforms to disclose content provenance data to users. This bill amends one of those options and permits large online platforms to meet their obligations by allowing users to download provenance data attached to content rather than allowing them to download the content itself with the attached system provenance data. This must be provided in a format that cannot be easily embedded into, attached to, or associated with unrelated content. This comes in the wake of concerns about potential copyright issues and piracy of protected materials posted to these platforms.

In addition, the law currently prohibits a large online platform, to the extent technically feasible, from knowingly stripping any system provenance data or digital signature from content uploaded or distributed on the platform. This bill extends this prohibition to content downloaded from the platform.

According to the author:

> New and emerging developments of generative AI (GenAI) tools have made it easier to create, edit, and doctor images, video, and audio. GenAI technologies can create and manipulate content to look realistic and convincing, which allow bad actors to create harmful content and spread disinformation. With the passage of AB 853, there would be more transparency of AI-generated content in the digital information ecosystem, and users would have more information to understand the source of content. AB 2713 would provide additional clarification within existing law in order that any requirements to share provenance information on large online platforms would have to be operationalized in a way that protects content creators and allow for large online platforms to provide meaningful information for users on their platforms.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/23/26)

Center for AI and Digital Policy
Entertainment Union Coalition
Motion Picture Association of America
Recording Industry Association of America

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/23/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The Center for AI and Digital Policy writes, "AB 2713 takes a lifecycle approach and requires that provenance data persists with synthetic content. Without this requirement, disclosures and labels collapse into formalities that fail at the point of greatest exposure, when content leaves controlled device environments and circulates in the broader information ecosystem. California's existing AI Transparency Act requires large online platforms to "provide a user interface that reliably indicates whether content was generated or substantially altered by a GenAI system" but its anti-stripping prohibition reaches only content uploaded or distributed on the platform. AB 2713 closes this gap by extending the anti-stripping prohibition to content downloaded from the platform."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Christian Kurpiewski / P., D.T., & C.P. / (916) 651-1548
8/24/26 11:57:59

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2717
Author: Caloza (D)
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-1, 6/23/26
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Dahle, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Valladares, Wiener
NOES: Blakespear

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Outdoor advertising displays: arenas: exemptions

SOURCE: Los Angeles Dodgers LLC

DIGEST: This bill extends, commencing January 1, 2028, a previously issued authorization for outdoor advertising displays for designated professional sports arenas, as defined, until January 1, 2032, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 make various changes to the existing measure.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Creates the Outdoor Advertising Act (OAA), a regulatory framework administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to govern installation and operation of outdoor advertising displays (i.e., billboards) that are visible from state highways. OAA and related regulations determine the size, illumination, orientation, and location of advertising

displays adjacent to and within specified distances of interstate or primary highways, and, with some exceptions, specifically prohibit any advertising display from being placed or maintained on property adjacent to a section of landscaped highway.

2) Regulates, as an “off-premises advertising display,” a display along a highway that generally advertises business conducted or services rendered or goods produced or sold at a location other than the property where the display is located. The Act does not apply to “on-premises advertising displays,” which generally advertise business conducted or services rendered or goods produced or sold at the location where the display is located and which are separately regulated.

3) Exempts advertising displays associated with sports arenas (capacity of 15,000 or more seats), as defined, from specific provisions of OAA, provided that advertising display only includes products, goods, or services sold within that area on a regular basis, or marketed or promoted in that area pursuant to a sponsorship marketing plan, provided that the display is authorized by January 1, 2021, by, or in accordance with, a local ordinance, as specified. Advertising for distilled spirits, tobacco, firearms, or sexually explicit material is not permitted.

4) Defines a "sponsorship marketing plan" as an agreement between the property owner, facility owner, facility operator, or occupant of the premises of an arena and a sponsor pursuant to which the sponsor is allowed to include its logo, slogan, and that the agreement for a duration of not less than 120 days.

5) Requires Caltrans, when renegotiating an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) relating to advertising signs, displays, and devices in areas adjacent to federally identified highway systems that specifies the state’s obligations for receipt of unreduced federal aid highway funds under federal law, to include among its priorities support for advertising displays at arenas.

6) Provides, by contractual agreement, for Caltrans to administer the federal Outdoor Advertising Control (OAC) program under the federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (HBA), which has restrictions similar to California’s OAA program, including maximum sign size, sign spacing, location, illumination, and content. If the state fails to properly administer the federal program, the state is subject to lose 10% of its federal highway funding.

7) Requires that if an advertising display associated with a sports arena is subject to a notice from the federal government that the display will result in the reduction of federal highway funds, the authorization of the display shall cease. Failure to remove the advertising will result in a fine of $10,000 per day until the advertising is removed.

8) Provides that responsibility for ensuring that the signs are compliant with the law is responsibility of the city or county which authorized the signs and that the city or county shall indemnify Caltrans for all costs incurred to ensure compliance.

This bill:

1) Commencing January 1, 2028, extends an authorization date for advertising displays for designated professional sports arenas, as defined, with a capacity of 15,000 or more seats to January 1, 2032, by, or in accordance with, a local ordinance or other discretionary approval, including, but not limited to, a specific plan or sign district adopted in connection with the approval of the arena that benefits the arena and that is adopted by the city, county, or city and county, bears the name or logo of the arena, and is visible when approaching offramps from the interstate, primary, or state highways used to access the premises of the arena. An arena shall not be permitted more than two advertising displays allowed under this measure.

2) Provides the exemption would be limited to an arena fully constructed or under construction before January 1, 2027, as specified.

3) Provides the advertising displays are exempt from specific provisions of OAA, provided that the billboards are used exclusively either to advertise products, goods, or services sold by persons on the premises of an arena on a regular basis, or to advertise products, goods, or services marketed or promoted on the premises of an arena pursuant to a sponsorship marketing plan, as specified.

4) Requires Caltrans to make a determination that an outdoor advertising display approved by the provisions specified in this bill does not cause a reduction in federal funds or is inconsistent with any federal requirements, as specified. Further requires Caltrans to request FHA to make and submit the abovementioned determination if Caltrans is unable to make the determination.

5) Provides, this bill would require certain advertising displays placed pursuant to the exemption for one arena to be located at least 5,000 feet from an advertising display authorized pursuant to the exemption for another arena.

6) Defines "Premises of an arena" means either of the following:

   a) A venue for indoor or outdoor sports, concerts, or other events.
   b) Any development project or district encompassing the venue, adjacent to it, or separated from it only by public or private rights-of-way, the boundaries of which have been set by the city, county, or city and county in which the arena is located. The development project or district shall be contiguous and shall not extend more than 1,000 feet beyond the arena structure or any structure physically connected to the arena structure.

7) Defines "Sponsorship marketing plan" means an agreement between the property owner, facility owner, facility operator, or occupant of the premises of an arena and a sponsor pursuant to which the sponsor is allowed to include its logo, slogan, or advertising on advertising displays and that meets both of the following conditions:

   a) The sponsorship marketing plan is for a period of not less than 120 days.

   b) The sponsorship marketing plan grants the sponsor the opportunity to display its logo, slogan, or advertising in the interior of structures on the premises of an arena, or conduct promotions, public relations, or marketing activities on the premises of an arena.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "California is home to some of the most iconic sports and entertainment venues in the world—from stadiums like Dodger Stadium to Levi's Stadium—but many facilities need updated tools to remain competitive in today's modern landscape. AB 2717 extends the existing sunset provision to January 1, 2032, ensuring that professional sports arenas can continue seeking local government approval to install off-site advertising displays tied to their operations. As California prepares to host major global events like the 2028 Summer Olympics, it is critical that our stadiums and arenas are equipped to meet the moment. Beyond economic benefits, these displays can serve the public good—supporting civic uses like voting centers and community events, and delivering critical information such as Amber Alerts and emergency notifications.

AB 2717 ensures our venues remain both economically viable and responsive to the needs of the communities they serve."

OAA: A history. Since 1933, Caltrans has enforced OAA which contains comprehensive standards and regulations for outdoor advertising displays. Caltrans regulates the placement of outdoor advertising displays visible from California highways. Outdoor advertising displays require a permit from Caltrans if they are within 660 feet from the edge of the right-of-way and viewed primarily by persons traveling on the main-traveled way of the freeway. In order to enforce the requirements for outdoor advertising under HBA and the State's OAA, Caltrans regularly inspects freeways and highways that are part of the National Highway System.

The OAA regulates the size, illumination, orientation, and location of advertising displays adjacent to and within specified distances of interstate or primary highways, and, with some exceptions, specifically prohibits any advertising display from being placed or maintained on property adjacent to a section of landscaped highway.

The Act generally does not apply to "on premises" advertising displays, which include those advertising the sale of the property upon which it is placed or that advertise the business conducted, services rendered, or goods produced or sold on the property. Local governments regulate on-premises displays, except for certain safety requirements. Lastly, existing law includes a number of exceptions to OAA and assigns Caltrans the responsibility of reviewing and permitting signs that qualify for these exceptions.

OAA exemptions for arenas. The basis for the professional sports arena (capacity of 15,000 or more seats) exemption governing permitted off-site billboard advertising was established in 2013 (SB 31, Padilla, Chapter 542, Statutes of 2013). The intent was to support the financing of sports arenas by creating alternatives to public funding. The exemption was later clarified to limit advertising displays to products, goods, or services that are either sold within the arena on a regular basis or marketed and promoted there under a sponsorship marketing plan of at least one year. This clarification was viewed as a compromise addressing concerns from both arena developers—seeking to maximize advertising revenue—and traditional outdoor advertising companies, which faced newly funded competition from arena-based displays in locations previously unavailable to the outdoor industry and advertisers.

Over the years, several attempts were made to extend the 2021 exemption sunset. Most recently, in 2022, SB 1309 (Durazo) would have extended the authorization date for advertising displays for designated professional sports arenas with a capacity of 15,000 or more seats to January 1, 2028. The exemption would have been limited to arenas constructed or under construction before January 1, 2023, and would have required that the display be in accordance with a local ordinance or other discretionary approval. SB 1309 was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. Many of the provisions specified in this bill, AB 2717, mirror the provisions included in SB 1309.

HBA of 1965. The HBA was created to protect the public investment, promote the safety and recreational value of public travel, and to preserve the natural beauty of highways in the nation. The HBA specifies that states have the responsibility to enforce provisions regarding the placement and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, displays and devices along the Interstate and National Highway System. The state of California enforces the provisions of federal law through a compact that was developed between the state and the federal government in 1967. Federal law also includes a penalty for states that violate the HBA by reducing all federal highway transportation funds by a designated percentage – thus, if the state fails to properly administer the federal program, the state is subject to a sanction that would reduce its federal highway funding allocations by 10%.

In attempt to avoid any federal violations, this bill contains provisions that requires Caltrans to determine if an outdoor advertising display locally approved under this measure violates federal requirements. An outdoor advertising display would be prohibited from being constructed / erected if Caltrans makes a determination that the display violates federal requirements.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Caltrans estimates costs in the range of $150,000 for additional staff resources to review whether a proposed display conforms with local ordinances or other discretionary approvals and with state and federal law. Specifically, Caltrans must determine whether proposed displays conform with federal requirements or agreements and will not cause a reduction in federal funds, and/or make requests to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to make those determinations. Actual Caltrans administrative costs would depend upon the number of reviews and associated inspections that are conducted in a given

year. (State Highway Account)

- Caltrans further notes the potential risk of federal sanctions that would reduce federal highway allocations by up to $580 million, to the extent Caltrans does not maintain effective control of outdoor advertising. Staff notes that this bill includes a provision requiring Caltrans, before authorizing a display to be placed, to make a determination that a proposed display will not cause a reduction in federal aid funds, or to request that FHWA make that determination, which should mitigate the risk of federal sanctions.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Los Angeles Dodgers LLC (Source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

City of Inglewood (unless amended)
Scenic America
Western Electrical Contractors Association

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hart, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
8/24/26 10:53:36

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2724
Author: Bauer-Kahan (D)
Amended: 8/20/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/24/26
AYES: Padilla, Niello, Becker, Menjivar, Richardson, Rubio
NO VOTE RECORDED: Jones

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Catastrophe modeling: distressed areas

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to review and update distressed areas, on or before July 1, 2027, and yearly thereafter. Establishes additional requirements for public input and awareness of areas classified as distressed.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/20/26 1) Revise findings and declarations. 2) Create new intervals for the payment of non-compliance penalties regarding the submission of reports by certain admitted insurers to the Insurance Commissioner (Commissioner) every two years related to their residential property policies' fire risk. 3) State that by July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, CDI must conduct a review and update of distressed areas, pursuant to Section 2644.4.8 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, based on updates of WUI-designated areas. 4) Specify as part of that review, CDI must consult with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE) regarding wildfire hazard and WUI-designated areas. The review must also consider analysis of ZIP Codes based on the number of properties insured by the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan Association (FAIR Plan) and by admitted insurers. The review must contain a

process for public participation, as specified. 5) Require CDI to publish the review's findings by January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter with required information on ZIP Codes in WUI areas. These findings must also be provided to the Senate and Assembly Insurance Committees. 6) Allow these findings to be published every other year if the percentage of homes in WUI-designated areas on the FAIR Plan or uninsured homes reduces by 20% or more from the preceding year.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Creates the CDI, headed by the Commissioner, and generally regulates the business of insurance in the state.

2) Establishes the FAIR Plan to assure the stability of the property insurance market, to assure the availability of basic property insurance, as defined, to encourage maximum use of the normal insurance market in obtaining basic property insurance provided by admitted insurers and licensed surplus line brokers.

3) States under Section 2644.4.8 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, that "distressed areas" include:

    a) Undermarketed ZIP Codes. An Undermarketed ZIP Code shall mean a ZIP Code, as determined by the Commissioner, which at least partially overlaps with a high or very high fire hazard severity zone as shown on current maps published by Cal FIRE and in which ZIP Code either:

        i) At least 15% of the sum, as specified, are insured by the FAIR Plan.

        ii) The average premium per $1,000.00 of Coverage A in the ZIP Code is at least four dollars while the median income of the ZIP Code is no higher than the fiftieth percentile for the state.

    b) Distressed counties. A county is considered distressed if the percentage of structures situated in that county that are at high or very high wildfire risk is no lower than the 50th percentile of counties in the state, as determined by the Commissioner.

This bill:

1) Requires CDI to review and update distressed areas, through the following methods:

   a) Consult with Cal FIRE.

   b) Consider ZIP Codes with at least 10 percent of the sum of the following that are insured by the FAIR Plan:

      i) The number of residential properties in the ZIP Code that are insured by the FAIR Plan.

      ii) The number of residential properties in the ZIP Code that are insured in the voluntary market by admitted insurers under a policy of qualifying residential property insurance.

   c) Develop and implement a process that allows for meaningful public participation that includes, at a minimum, both of the following:

      i) Holding at least one public meeting to allow interested persons to submit suggestions for distressed areas.

      ii) Making available the proposed distressed areas for public review and comment.

2) Requires CDI to publish a bulletin on or before January 1, 2028, and yearly thereafter, with a list of ZIP Codes in distressed areas, on CDI's website, and provide the information to the Assembly Committee on Insurance and the Senate Committee on Insurance.

3) Makes related findings and declarations.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

CDI estimates costs of $84,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27, $148,000 in FY 2027-28, and $136,000 in FY 2028-29 and ongoing to manage regulatory updates, coordinate distressed area reviews, and conduct public meetings (Insurance Fund).

Unknown costs for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to provide consultation on distressed areas.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/14/26)

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Contra Costa County
Lafayette; City of
League of California Cities
Orinda; City of
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/14/26)

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

A coalition of cities and counties states:

"Under the Catastrophe Modeling Regulations adopted in January 2025, insurance companies are required to offer insurance to 85% of their statewide market share in distressed areas identified by the Insurance Commissioner. Distressed areas are defined by zip codes that have 15% or more property owners enrolled in the FAIR Plan and counties that have 20% or more properties that are in a high-risk area.

During the public comment period of the Catastrophe Modeling, our organizations noted our concern with the 15% statistic and noted that even with this requirement it was unclear whether insurance companies would provide coverage to all communities experiencing high insurance policies or the ability to obtain coverage.

This bill would require CDI to specifically consider the number of residential properties in the ZIP Code that are insured by the FAIR Plan, and the number of residential properties in the ZIP Code that are insured in the voluntary market by admitted insurers under a policy of qualifying residential property insurance. By reviewing the distressed areas definition this could allow more jurisdictions to have access to insurance under the Catastrophe Modeling regulations."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

According to the California Department of Insurance:

"The Department, under the leadership of Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, supports the goal of improving insurance availability in wildfire-affected communities, including those in the wildland-urban interface, and ensuring the calculation of distressed areas is transparent. However, your bill does not reflect the same level of analysis and coordinated regulatory development underlying the Department's existing legal framework. The current distressed area framework was

developed through extensive coordination across multiple Department branches and divisions, with input from subject matter experts both within and outside the Department, in addition to receiving significant public input from across the state, as part of the broader Sustainable Insurance Strategy (SIS). The goal of the SIS is consistent with the goals of Proposition 103: to increase the availability and affordability of homeowners insurance in high-risk areas.

AB 2724 risks disrupting that established regulatory framework and raises serious concerns under Prop. 103. As you know, in order to amend Prop. 103, legislation must further the purposes of Prop. 103 which are, among other things, to increase the affordability and availability of insurance. The voters delegated that responsibility to the elected Insurance Commissioner when Prop. 103 was adopted. AB 2724 does not demonstrate that it would further the purposes of Prop. 103. Not only does the bill improperly substitute the Legislature's judgment for that of the Department's technical and legal expertise, but the bill also presents significant litigation risk as an improper amendment to Prop. 103."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Brandon Seto / INS. / (916) 651-4110
8/24/26 13:55:39

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2739
Author: Soria (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Water: affordability and system stabilization

SOURCE: Irvine Ranch Water District
Rancho California Water District

DIGEST: This bill establishes the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust as a charitable trust to fund the Community Water Affordability Program administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Water Rate Affordability Assistance Fund administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Senate Floor amendments of 8/21/26 provide DWR and the State Treasurer's Office (STO) with some flexibility to carry out this bill's provisions and shift certain responsibilities from the STO to the State Controller's Office (SCO).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Gives DWR broad authority to manage and oversee various aspects of water management in California, including dams, flood control projects, the State

Water Project, sustainable groundwater management, and the California Water Plan.

2) Declares it is the responsibility of the state to help local governments when state or joint state and federal water resource construction projects create an undue burden on a local area's ability to provide certain services and facilities.

3) Defines a "community water system" as a public water system serving at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or one that regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents of the area.

This bill:

1) Enacts the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act (Act).

2) Creates the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund (Trust Fund) to hold the trust property of the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Trust (Trust). The primary purpose of the Trust is to provide perpetual source of funding to the Water Rate Assistance Fund (WRAF) and Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund (CWAAF).

3) Creates the CWAAF, but does not create the WRAF, which does not exist in statute.

4) Transfers distributions by the trustee (the State Treasurer's Office (STO)) from the income of the Trust to the SWRCB and DWR for deposit into, and expenditure from, the WRAF and the CWAAF. Includes requirements to:

   a) Prohibit Trust Fund money from being used for any purpose not established by the Act;

   b) Require the trustee to hold, manage, and invest the principal of the Trust in accordance with existing law to proving a growing perpetual source of annual funding to the WRAF and the CWAAF.

   c) Transfer specific percentages of money to the WRAF and the CWAAF, and invest a specific percentage of money at specified time intervals.

   5) Creates a number of responsibilities for and imposes a number of limitations on the trustee, and allows the trustee to accept donations to the Trust.

6) Requires DWR to develop and adopt program guidelines and project solicitation documents, and exempts those from the Administrative Procedure Act.

7) Requires DWR to develop and administer the Community Water Affordability Program to provide grants to community water systems to improve water supplies, resiliency, or quality, and reduce energy costs.

8) Establishes a methodology for DWR to evaluate grant applications and requires grant applicants to cover at least 25% of the cost of any project, though DWR can waive or reduce this amount based on a showing of extreme financial hardship.

9) Requires DWR to hold public hearings and allow for public comment on its proposed program guidelines and requires DWR to post an annual report on the operations, spending, and benefits of the program.

Background

Water Service. California residents are served by various types of water utilities or water systems, including publicly owned utilities (POUs), investor-owned utilities (IOUs), and small community water systems (CWS). Most of California's residential water customers are served by cities, special districts, and mutual water companies. These utilities are governed by the city council, or other local governing body, which sets the water rates, which in the vast majority of cases are subject to 1996's Proposition 218 that ties the rates to the cost of providing water *service*. This restriction limits an agency's ability to increase rates to fund low-income *rate relief programs* for customers.

Affording The Cost of Water. A 2020 SWRCB report to the Legislature, *Recommendations for Implementation of a Statewide Low-Income Water Rate Assistance*, found California households "…find it increasingly difficult to satisfy … [the need for water] … as the retail cost of water has risen substantially over the last decade and is expected to rise significantly over the coming years … adjusting for inflation, the average Californian household paid around 45% more per month for drinking water service in 2015 than in 2007."

A 2025 SWRCB needs assessment found there was a steady increase in drinking water rates across the state from 2020 to 2023, concluding larger water systems saw the highest increase since 2020, 17% on average, even though smaller systems generally charge more per unit of water than larger systems. The affordability challenge is even more acute in poorer communities. Of the water systems assessed, 45% are experiencing a low affordability burden, 12% are experiencing a medium affordability burden, and 3% are experiencing a high affordability burden (40% of systems are experiencing no affordability burden).

Comments

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, "Water affordability and system stability are increasingly interconnected challenges across California. Rising costs associated with infrastructure modernization, climate resilience, regulatory compliance, and energy continue to place pressure on water systems and the communities they serve, which is especially true for households living at or near poverty.

"The California Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act proposes a durable, California-based solution by addressing affordability at the household, system, and community levels. The Act advances a sustainable funding solution to support a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program for water while also supporting strategic investments that stabilize water systems and help reduce cost pressures before they are passed on to ratepayers."

Tracking cost avoidance. This bill creates the Community Water Affordability Program to provide grants to community water systems for local water infrastructure projects. It also requires DWR to annually post on its website a report on the revenues, expenditures, and benefits of the fund, including the "estimated amount of cost the program has caused to be avoided." The goal is to help fund projects that – absent grant funding – would lead to ratepayer increases to finance the projects. So, the "estimated amount of cost the program has caused to be avoided" refers to what the project would have cost ratepayers had they been required to finance the infrastructure project.

Referring to a fund that doesn't exist. The primary purpose of the trust created by this bill is to provide an ongoing source of funding to the Water Rate Assistance Fund (WRAF) and the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund (CWAAF). While this bill creates CWAAF, the WRAF does not exist. Rather it would be created by SB 1125 (Menjivar), which is pending on the Assembly Floor.

If this bill is enacted, with reference to the WRAF and SB 1125 – which creates the WRAF – is not signed into law, references to the WRAF in this bill will likely cause confusion and it is unclear how the bill will be implemented.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee's analysis, the bill creates General Fund cost pressure of an unknown but significant amount, potentially in the millions of dollars (one-time or annually).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/5/26)

Irvine Ranch Water District (co-sponsor)
Rancho California Water District (co-sponsor)
Association of California Cities - Orange County
Association of California Water Agencies
California Chamber of Commerce
California Council for Environment and Economic Balance
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Municipal Utilities Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
California Water Association
Calleguas Municipal Water District
City of Sacramento
City of Thousand Oaks
Clean Water Action Community Water Center
Contra Costa Water District
County of Los Angeles
Crescenta Valley Water District
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Eastern Municipal Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
El Toro Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Honorable Bryan Osorio, Councilmember, City of Delano
Honorable Gregorio Gomez, Councilmember, City of Farmersville
Honorable Joe Soria, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lindsey
Honorable Jose Sigala, Councilmember, City of Tulare
Honorable Krista Bernasconi, Mayor, City of Roseville
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
League of California Cities
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Mission Springs Water District
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
Municipal Water District of Orange County
Orange County Business Council
Regional Water Authority
Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District
San Diego County Water Authority
San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program
Santa Fe Irrigation District

Santa Margarita Water District
South Coast Water District
South Orange County Economic Coalition
Southern California Water Coalition
Southwest California Legislative Council
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Valley Water
Walnut Valley Water District
West Basin Municipal Water District
Western Municipal Water District

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/5/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Evan Goldberg/ N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/24/26 13:35:58

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2770
Author: Alvarez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/21/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State Property: San Pasqual Battlefield State Park

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to quitclaim, forthwith, the state-owned land in the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/21/26 add a coauthor.

ANALYSIS: Existing Law:

1) Encourages and authorizes all state agencies to cooperate with federally recognized California Indian tribes on matters of economic development and improvement for the tribes (Government Code § 11019.8).

2) Encourages the State of California and its agencies to consult on a government-to-government basis with federally recognized tribes, and to consult with nonfederally recognized tribes. Requires government-to-government consultation training (Government Code § 11019.81).

3) Encourages the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and its departments, boards, conservancies, and commissions, to enter into co-

governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes. Permits the Secretary of CNRA or a delegate to enter into co-governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes for the purposes of shared responsibility, decision-making, and partnership in resource management and conservation within a tribe's ancestral lands and waters (Government Code § 11019.82).

4) Establishes the California state park system and vests State Parks with control of the state park system and responsibility for administering, protecting, developing, and interpreting state parks for the use and enjoyment of the public [Public Resource Code (PRC) §§ 5001 *et seq*.).

5) Prohibits the commercial exploitation of resources in units of the state park system, with some exceptions (PRC § 5001.65).

This bill:

1) Requires State Parks to quitclaim, forthwith, all interests of the state in the land owned within the San Pasqual Battlefield State Park, to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, at no cost to the tribe.

    a) Require the state to publish public notice of the quitclaim in a County of San Diego newspaper and at the intersection of the public right-of-way and the property.

2) Places conditions on the quitclaim deed including:

    a) The termination of all agreements, including but not limited to leases, that the state is a counterparty and which concerns the land subject to the quitclaim, upon conveyance to the tribe.

    b) Restricting the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians' commercial use of the lands solely to operating a educational or cultural center.

        i) The educational center shall include artifacts, displays, and information relating to the 1846 Battle of San Pasqual, including the role of the Mormon Battalion in that battle and in the Mexican-American War, and the lasting impacts of the battle on surrounding communities.

        ii) No other commercial use or development, including, but not limited to, gaming, shall be permitted on the lands.

iii) Authorizes the tribe to operate commercial uses related to the enjoyment of educational and cultural experiences tied to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians' culture and history or related to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians' operation of a cultural or educational center, including, but not limited to, a gift shop, snack bar, parking lot, or other similar use.

c) Prohibiting the subsequent sale or transfer of these lands and improvements on those lands, except as necessary for the United States to hold the lands in trust on behalf of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians.

d) Prohibiting the encumberance of these lands and improvements on those lands.

i) "Encumbered" includes, but is not limited to, mortgaging the property, pledging the property as collateral, or any other transaction where the property would serve as security for borrowed funds.

ii) Any lease of the land and improvements shall be consistent with the purposes for which the land and improvements are granted.

e) Prohibiting these lands from being subject to real property taxation, and establishing that no documentary transfer tax shall apply with respect to any deed, instrument, or writing effectuating the transfer.

f) Establishing that the grant of lands shall be valid only if the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians' Tribal Council adopts a resolution pursuant to its tribal law accepting the fee title grants in accordance with these conditions.

g) The authorization of public access, subject to reasonable regulations adopted by the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, pursuant to its inherent sovereign authority as landowner, provided that public recreation activities shall be limited to existing trails and roads, and that the use of off-road vehicles and e-bicycles shall be prohibited.

3) Requires the state, if the City of San Diego agrees to transfer the land that it owns within the San Pasqual Battlefield State Park to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, to, at no cost to the tribe, relinquish or transfer to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians all rights and interests that the state has in those lands through lease, permit, or otherwise, and take any and all other actions necessary to effectuate the City of San Diego's transfer of the land to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians.

4) Finds and declares that a special statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the unique circumstances surrounding the history of the ancestral lands of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians and the state's attempt rectify the recognized wrongs of the state by returning the land to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians.

5) Finds and declares that this bill serves a public purpose of attempting to rectify the recognized wrongs of the state in discriminating against Native Americans and to heal the relationship between the state and the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, and also serves a public purpose of allowing the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians to operate a public park to educate the public on the tribe's history and contributions to the community, and for all of these reasons, does not constitute a gift of public funds within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

Background

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park (SHP). The San Pasqual Battlefield SHP highlights the rich cultural history of the San Pasqual Valley, featuring exhibits on the Kumeyaay people, the region's Indigenous inhabitants, and commemorates the 1846 Battle of San Pasqual during the Mexican-American War. In recognition of the Kumeyaay ancestry, State Parks is working closely with the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians to incorporate the robust history, culture, and traditional ecological knowledge of the Kumeyaay people into the park's visitor center, trails, and programs.

San Pasqual Battlefield SHP spans 50 acres in the San Pasqual Valley. Only 3.68 acres is owned by State Parks and the rest is owned by the City of San Diego. Currently, this state park is closed to the public for day use, but special events continue to be hosted. There is no MOU between the San Pasqual Band and State Parks regarding this property.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

- The Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has identified one-time General Fund implications of approximately $278,000 if the department's 3.68 acres of property were transferred to the tribe. DGS would charge State Parks for the land conveyance, estimated between $100,000–$200,000, and contingent upon the details of the transaction. State Parks has an existing lease with the San Diego Archaeological Society and anticipates lease termination costs approximately $5,000. Additionally, the Archaeological Center houses

some of the department's and other entities' collections. State Parks estimates costs of approximately $30,000 for specialized packing, and $43,000 for temporary storage of the Curatorial Collection, with additional significant costs for moving and long-term storage at the Statewide Museum Collections Center in Sacramento. The City of San Diego has indicated they would be unable to transfer the property they own, approximately 65 acres, therefore, costs associated with effectuating the City's transfer of land have not been included in the above total but would include $5,000 for terminating the lease with the City, and $38,000 for additional relocation of materials and collections.

- One-time revenue loss of an unknown amount, potentially in excess of $150,000, to the state by quitclaiming SPB State Park at no cost to the tribe, thus foregoing a future sale of the property by the state (General Fund). At the time this analysis was prepared, the committee did not know the current estimated value of the property. To the extent there is deferred maintenance on the property, requiring the state to quitclaim the park may also result in potential one-time costs and ongoing cost savings of an unknown amount to State Parks, as State Parks may need to undertake maintenance activities prior to the transfer, but would no longer need to continue maintenance afterward.
- One-time local costs, likely minor, to the City of San Diego to exempt the transferred lands from property taxation. These costs are potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates, although it is unlikely the city would submit a claim. And while the bill exempts transferred lands, and improvements on those lands, from real property and documentary transfer taxes, the bill states that the state shall not reimburse any local agency for lost property tax revenue.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/21/26)

Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "AB 2770 is a critical step toward justice for the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, whose ancestral lands in the San Pasqual Valley were stripped from them through a legacy of state and federal failures. This bill rectifies a historic wrong by returning state-owned parcels within the San Pasqual Battlefield State Park—land that holds profound cultural and spiritual significance, including a tribal cemetery—to the tribe at no

cost. For too long, this park has sat closed and unused, a symbol of erasure rather than education. By transferring these 3.68 acres, we honor the tribe's unbroken connection to this land and align with California's commitment to reconciliation with Native communities.

"The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians envisions a public park that celebrates their history and contributions—a space for healing and learning that benefits all Californians. AB 2770 is not just about land; it's about seizing this opportunity to turn empty promises into meaningful progress and demonstrate that California's path forward includes honoring its past."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: None received.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/26/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez

Prepared by: Edith Hannigan / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
8/24/26 12:15:02

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2776
Author: Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Amended: 8/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26
AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/7/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Hazardous materials

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various technical changes to the unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory programs that are overseen by the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) and adds reporting authorizations for the Board of Environmental Safety (BES).

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/18/2026 make technical and clarifying changes to the exemption of the compaction of hazardous waste from the definition of treatment and the requirements therein.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to authorize the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes throughout its life cycle. (Title 42 United States Code (USC) §§ 6901 et seq.)

2) Enacts the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986, which was created to help communities plan for chemical emergencies. EPCRA requires industry to report on the storage, use, and releases of hazardous substances to federal, state, and local governments; and requires state and local governments, and Indian tribes to use this information to prepare their community for potential risks. (Title 42 United States Code (USC) §§ 11001 et seq.)

3) Establishes standards and requirements for generators of hazardous waste and lists conditions for permit exemptions. (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 262 et seq.)

Existing state law:

1) Creates the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL), which authorizes the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to regulate the management of hazardous wastes in California. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) §§ 25100 et seq.)

2) Defines "Certified Unified Program Agency" or "CUPA" as the agency certified by the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to implement the unified program within a jurisdiction. (HSC § 25404(a)(1)(A))

3) Defines "Unified Program Agency" or "UPA" as the CUPA to implement or enforce a particular Unified Program element. UPAs have the responsibility and authority to implement and enforce the unified program requirements and implementing regulations. (HSC § 25404(a)(1)(C))

4) Requires the Secretary of CalEPA to adopt implementing regulations and implement a unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory program, known as the Unified Program. (HSC § 25404(b))

5) Defines "treatment" to mean any method, technique, or process that is designed to change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any hazardous waste or any material contained therein, or that removes or reduces its harmful properties or characteristics and provides specified activities that treatment does not include. (HSC § 25135.5(a))

6) Defines "aboveground storage tank" as a tank or container that has a capacity to store 55 gallons or more of petroleum that is substantially above the surface of the ground; and provides that "aboveground storage tank" does not include a

specified list of things including oil filled electrical equipment or a tank in an underground area that has capacity to store less than 55 gallons of petroleum, has secondary containment, and is inspected monthly. (HSC § 25270.2 (a)(4), (a)(8))

7) Specifies various requirements for the owner/operator of an aboveground petroleum storage tank facility. (HSC § 25270.4.5 (b)(1); HSC § 25270.6 (a)(1).

8) Requires a permit holder of an underground storage tank (UST) to, within 60 days of receiving a compliance report or special inspection report, file with the CUPA a plan to implement all recommendations contained in the compliance report or demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CUPA why the recommendations should not be implemented. (HSC § 25288(d))

9) Requires vacuum, pressure, or hydrostatic (VPH) monitoring for USTs for all product piping, including aboveground piping. (HSC § 25290.1(e))

10) Requires businesses to establish and implement a business plan for emergency response to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, as described, if the business meets specified conditions, including handling specified hazardous materials at defined quantities, including gases.

11) Establishes the Board of Environmental Safety (BES) within DTSC with five voting members that represent the general public interest and act to protect public health and reduce risks of toxic exposure with a particular focus on disproportionately burdened and vulnerable communities. (HSC § 25125)

This bill:

1) Removes the exclusion for biohazardous waste, that meets specified conditions, from the requirements of the HWCL.

2) Precludes a small quantity generator from the requirements of a storage facility if the generator complies the requirements of 22 California Code of Regulation (CCR) § 66262.16.

3) Exempts the "compaction of hazardous waste" from the definition of "treatment", including nonliquid waste materials and provides that the compaction of hazardous waste applies to the compaction of nonliquid waste materials, as specified, if none of the following conditions apply:
   a) The waste is a free liquid, as specified, or a semisolid or solid that produces a free liquid, or a solid that contains a free liquid;

b) The waste being compacted is a solid that exhibits the characteristic of ignitability, as defined, or the characteristic of reactivity, as defined;

c) The compaction alters the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of the waste, and results in a physical change beyond those inherent to compaction, such as reduction in volume, increase in density, or changes in shape or form; and

d) The compaction results in the production of fugitive dust, fire, or explosion.

4) Amends the exclusions to "aboveground storage tank", oil-filled electrical equipment to specify a single piece of equipment; and a tank in an underground area that has the capacity to store less than 55 gallons of petroleum to specify that the secondary containment includes contents of the tank, associated piping, and ancillary equipment, until cleanup occurs and that such equipment are inspected monthly.

5) Requires a permitholder of an underground tank system to return to compliance within 30 days, instead of 60 days, after receiving a compliance or special inspection report, as described, except if the local agency approves a plan to return to compliance in excess of 30 days and the local agency receives the plan within 30 days of the permitholder receiving the compliance or special inspection report.

6) Clarifies that VPH monitoring of a UST only applies to UST components beneath the surface of the ground.

7) Clarifies that businesses that handle specified gases in a quantity of less than 1,000 cubic feet are precluded from establishing and implementing a business plan for emergency response to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, as described.

8) Requires an owner or operator of a tank facility to immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services and the CUPA, as specified, of the occurrence of a discharge of any petroleum into or upon any waters of the state.

9) Requires the Board of Environmental Safety (BES) to annually prepare, post on its internet website, and transmit to the Secretary of the CalEPA an annual review of DTSC's performance and authorizes, to the extent feasible using existing resources, the review to include any of the following:
   a) A review of DTSC's performance as measured by the performance metrics, as specified;

b) Recommendations regarding the analysis of the fee structure that supports the activities of DTSC;

c) Legislative, regulatory, and budgetary changes that BES has identified as necessary to improve the performance of any of the department's programs; and

d) Findings from the subcommittees of the BES and the ombudsperson of the BES that the chairperson deems significant.

10) Prohibits specified components of the review from resulting in an increase in facility and generator fees.

11) Makes non-substantive, clarifying, and technical amendments.

Background

1) *Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs).* CUPAs are local agencies certified by the Secretary of CalEPA to implement and enforce 6 "unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management" regulatory programs (Unified Program). Currently, there are 81 CUPAs in California tasked with implementation and enforcement of the following:
   a) Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventories (Business Plans);

   b) California Accidental Release Prevention Program (CalARP);

   c) Underground Storage Tank Program (USTP);

   d) Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA);

   e) Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment Programs; and,

   f) California Uniform Fire Code: Hazardous Material Management Plans and Hazardous Material Inventory Statements.

2) *Underground Storage Tank Program (UST Program).* The statewide UST Program works to protect public health and safety and the environment from releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances from USTs. A UST is defined by law (HSC § 25299.32) as "any one or combination of tanks, including pipes connected thereto, that is used for the storage of hazardous

substances and is substantially or totally beneath the surface of the ground." CUPAs enforce UST regulations within their jurisdiction.

3) *Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment Programs.* State and federal law and regulation require businesses to manage their hazardous waste from the point of generation until proper disposal or recycling. This includes labeling and storage requirements and ensuring it is properly transported to a facility authorized to receive hazardous waste. Additionally, there are requirements for entities that treat their hazardous waste on-site. CUPAs enforce hazardous waste generator requirements as well as onsite hazardous waste treatment requirements within their jurisdiction.

4) *Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tank Act (APSA).* APSA regulates tank facilities that are subject to federal regulation or tank facilities with an aggregate storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or more of petroleum in aboveground storage containers or tanks with a shell capacity equal to or greater than 55 gallons. APSA also regulates tank facilities with less than 1,320 gallons of petroleum if they have one or more stationary tanks in an underground area (TIUGA). CUPAs enforce APSA within their jurisdiction.

5) *The Board of Environmental Safety (BES).* BES was established by SB 158 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 73, Statutes of 2021) as part of the reform for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). BES is a five-member board that advances key governance and fiscal measures to improve transparency, accountability, and fiscal stability of DTSC. Members of BES represent the general public interest, protect public health, and reduce risks of toxic exposure with a particular focus on disproportionately burdened and vulnerable communities. SB 158 gave BES various mandates, including setting generator and permitted facility fees, hearing and deciding permit appeals, reviewing the priorities of the director of DTSC, and conducting an analysis on the fee structure that supports the activities of DTSC. BES is required to submit an annual review of DTSC's performance to the Secretary of CalEPA.

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "CUPAs meet routinely to discuss implementation of the six statewide programs they oversee and occasionally discover inconsistencies in interpretation of the law. In order to maintain a unified program, the CUPAs bring any potential inconsistencies to state regulators (CalEPA, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC),

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)) and to the regulated community. AB 2776 reflects suggestions brought forward from the discussions with the CUPAs, state regulators, and the regulated community"

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/2026)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/2026)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/7/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Gallagher, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks

Prepared by: Taylor McKie / E.Q. / (916) 651-4108
8/19/26 11:19:48

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2779
Author: Irwin (D)
Amended: 6/9/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/16/26
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, McNerney, Padilla
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/7/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Food labeling: quality dates, safety dates, and sell-by dates

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill 1) provides that a food item for human consumption does not include a dietary supplement, as defined, and 2) includes an urgency statute for immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

1) Establishes the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that provides quality standards and labeling standards for food, drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics manufactured and sold in the United States (21 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 101 et seq.).

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law to regulate the packaging, labeling, and advertising of food, including dietary supplements, cosmetics, drugs, and medical devices in California (Health and Safety Code Section 109875- 110040).

2) Requires eggs being sold for human consumption to be labeled with all of the following (Food and Agricultural Code Section 27644):
   a) The words “Sell-by” immediately followed by the month and day in bold type.
   b) The “Sell-by” date shall not exceed 30 days from the date on which the eggs were packed, excluding the date of packing.

3) Requires milk and cream, at the time of sale to the consumer by a retail store, to have on the container a date established by the processor as the date upon which, in order to ensure consumer quality, the product is normally removed from the shelf or similar location from which the product is offered for sale to the consumer (Food and Agricultural Code Section 36004).

4) Requires raw shucked shellfish to bear a label that includes a “Sell by” date or a “Best if used by” date for packages with a capacity of less than one-half gallon, or the date shucked for packages with a capacity of one-half gallon or more (Health and Safety Code Section 114039).

5) Limits the refrigerated shelf life of packages of food using a reduced-oxygen packaging method where Clostridium botulinum is identified as a microbiological hazard to no more than 30 calendar days from packaging to consumption, except the time the product is maintained frozen, or the original manufacturer’s “Sell by” or “Use by” date, whichever occurs first (Health and Safety Code Section 114057.1).

6) Requires food manufacturers, processors, and retailers responsible for the labeling of food items, beginning July 1, 2026, to use "BEST if Used by" to indicate quality, and "Use by" to indicate safety of a food item, and prohibits the use of the term "sell by” (Food and Agricultural Code Section 82001).

This bill:

1) Provides that a food item for human consumption does not include a dietary supplement, as defined.
   a) This bill would exempt dietary supplements from the labeling requirement that requires food manufacturers, processors, and retailers responsible for the labeling of food items, beginning July 1, 2026, to use "BEST if Used by" to indicate quality, and "Use by" to indicate safety of a food item, and prohibits the use of the term "sell by."

2) Places an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:
   a) To ensure the correct implementation of the statute and to minimize the disruption to California's food industry it is necessary for this act to go into immediate effect.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/29/26)

Council for Responsible Nutrition
Natural Products Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/29/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

> "AB 660 established a standardized statewide food date-labeling framework to help consumers better distinguish between food quality and food safety while reducing unnecessary food waste. However, dietary supplements were not intended to be included within the scope of that legislation. Unlike conventional foods, dietary supplements use expiration dates and other dating systems to communicate shelf life and ingredient potency in accordance with federal requirements and established industry practices.
>
> AB 2779 provides a clarification by expressly excluding dietary supplements from AB 660's date-labeling requirements. The bill also

provides additional implementation flexibility by allowing manufacturers to use either capitalized or all-capitalized versions of the standardized date labels. AB 2779 will help ensure AB 660 is implemented as intended while providing regulatory certainty to manufacturers and avoiding consumer confusion."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-0, 5/7/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bonta, Chen, Flora, Gallagher, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Papan, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
7/2/26 11:57:08

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2782
Author: Committee on Judiciary
Amended: 6/15/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Judiciary omnibus

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various noncontroversial changes to existing law, including clarifying existing law, deleting obsolete statutes, modernizing certain statues, updating cross-references, and making various other nonsubstantive changes.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes a petitioner seeking a default judgment in a dissolution of marriage proceeding to waive the final declaration of disclosure requirements in dissolution proceedings. (Family (Fam.) Code § 2110.)

2) Requires each party to a dissolution proceeding to serve on the other party a preliminary declaration of disclosure. (Fam. Code § 2104(a).)

3) Requires each party, or the attorney for each party, in a dissolution proceeding to serve on the other party a final declaration of disclosure and a current income and expense declaration, except by court order for good cause, before or at the

time the parties enter into an agreement for the resolution of property or support issues. (Fam. Code § 2105(a).)

4) Requires a fiduciary to allocate the receipt from interests in minerals, water, or other natural resources as a business under Probate Code Section 16432 in a specified manner. (Probate (Prob.) Code § 16350(a).)

5) Provides guidelines for allocation of receipts for a business or other activity conducted by a fiduciary if the fiduciary determines that it is in the interests of the beneficiaries to account separately for the business or other activity, as specified. (Prob. Code § 16342.)

6) Establishes the Automobile Sales Finance Act (or the Rees-Levering Motor Vehicle Sales Finance Act) to regulate the sales of automobiles pursuant to conditional sales contracts. (Civil (Civ.) Code §§ 2981 et seq.)

7) Establishes the California Combating Auto Retail Scams (CARS) Act. (Civ. Code §§ 1784.20 et seq.)

8) Defines "homestead" to mean a principal dwelling in which a judgment debtor or their spouse resided on the date the judgment creditor's lien attached to the dwelling and in which the judgment debtor or their spouse resided continuously thereafter until the date of a court determination that the dwelling is a homestead. (Code Civ. Proc. § 704.710(c).)
   a) A homestead is exempt from a sale to enforce a money judgment, except pursuant to a court order for sale if certain conditions are met. (Code Civ. Proc. § 704.720.)
   b) The amount of a homestead exemption is the greater of: (1) the countywide median price for a single-family home in the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the judgment debtor claims the exemption, not to exceed $600,000; or (2) $300,000. (Code Civ. Proc. § 704.730(a).)
   c) The amount of a homestead exemption is to be adjusted annually for inflation, as specified. (Code Civ. Proc. § 704.730(b).)

This bill:

1) Exempts a petitioner and respondent in a dissolution of marriage proceeding in the case of a default judgment from the requirement that the parties exchange declarations of disclosures regarding property in a dissolution of marriage or registered partnership if the parties have an existing enforceable judgment of

legal separation that adjudicates or reserves jurisdiction over the division of property.

2) Corrects and updates cross-references in the Probate Code.

3) Deletes a vehicle contract cancellation option agreement from the definition of "cash price" under the Automobile Sales Finance Act.
   a) Removes the requirement that a conditional sale contract disclose the amount charged for a contract cancellation option agreement.
   b) Removes the requirement that the seller provide to a buyer prior to the execution of a conditional sale contract a description and the price of a vehicle contract cancellation option agreement.

4) Specifies that the homestead exemption ceiling amount is $746,350 for the 2026 calendar year, and the floor amount is $373,175 for the 2026 calendar year.
   a) The ceiling and floor amounts are to be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on January 1, 2027, by applying the multiplier produced by the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, published by the Department of Industrial Relations, during the prior fiscal year. On January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, this multiplier shall be calculated by dividing the CPI for the June ending the prior fiscal year by the CPI for the June immediately preceding the prior fiscal year.
   b) Each ceiling and floor amount adjusted under a) is to be rounded to the nearest $25.

Comments

This bill is the Assembly Judiciary Committee omnibus bill that makes various noncontroversial changes to existing law with the purpose of increasing efficiencies in the legislative process, conserving legislative resources, and eliminating the need to unnecessarily hear a number of technical, clarifying, or modest stand-alone bills that might otherwise have to be introduced and require individual consideration by the Legislature.

1) Makes updates to the Automobile Sales Finance Act to account for changes made in SB 766 (Allen, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2025).

   In 2005, The Legislature sought to curb abusive practices by car dealers in AB 68 (Montañez, Ch. 128, Stats. 2005), known as the Car Buyer's Bill of Rights.

The Car Buyer's Bill of Rights established a two day return window for used cars, capped at a valuation of $40,000. Under this statute, a dealer was able to (and many did) require the customer to pre-pay for the ability to return the car. SB 766 expanded this option for customers to a three day right to cancel a vehicle purchase or lease under $50,000, as long as the vehicle has fewer than 400 miles while in the customer's possession. (Civ. Code § 1784.43.) A dealer cannot require a customer to pre-buy this option, but may charge a fee not to exceed $600 plus $150. In lieu of this fee, a dealer that charged the customer a shipping fee for transporting the vehicle may retain the cost the dealer actually incurred for shipping. The bill also included disclosure requirements to notify customers of these options.

This bill makes changes to the Automobile Sales Finance Act to account for the above changes made in SB 766.

2) Makes clarifying changes to how the homestead exemption is to be adjusted.

The homestead exemption protects the value of a homeowner's primary residence in the event of a bankruptcy. Specifically, it provides that a specified portion of equity in a homestead is exempt from execution to satisfy a judgement debt. (Code Civ. Proc. § 704.730.) Effective January 1, 2021, the homestead exemption was set at the greater of the following: the countywide median sale price for a single-family home in the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the judgment debtor claims the exemption, not to exceed $600,000; or $300,000. These amounts were to be adjusted annually for inflation beginning on January 1, 2022.

This bill specifies that the ceiling amount for the 2026 calendar year is the countywide median sale price for a single-family home in the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the judgment debtor claims the exemption, not to exceed $746,350. The floor amount is $373,175 for the 2026 calendar year. The bill revises how these amounts are to be adjusted annually for inflation. The bill provides that the multiplier produced by the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, published by the Department of Industrial Relations during the prior fiscal year, is to be applied. On January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, this multiplier is to be calculated by dividing the CPI for the June ending the prior fiscal year by the CPI for the June immediately preceding the prior fiscal year. The ceiling and floor amounts adjusted are to be rounded to the nearest $25.

3) Allows parties to a dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership who have an enforceable judgment of legal separation that has either adjudicated the division of property or reserved jurisdiction over the division to waive the preliminary and final declaration of disclosure requirements.

   Married couples or those in a domestic partnership seeking to legally terminate their relationship can do so through either a separation or dissolution of marriage. Under a legal separation, the parties remain legally married allowing them to still benefit from certain aspects of a marriage, such as remaining on their spouse's health insurance, but separate financially. As part of this process, the parties are required to provide "preliminary disclosures" detailing each party's known assets and liabilities, as well as their "final disclosures," unless waived by stipulation or court order. A judgment of a legal separation adjudicates the same issues as a divorce judgment, with the sole exception that the parties maintain their legal relationship.

   In some instances, parties who have legally separated and whose property divisions have been formally adjudicated may later decide to seek a full dissolution of their remaining legal relationship. Under existing law, the parties would once again need to complete their preliminary and final disclosures, despite the fact that a judge has already ordered a division of their property and assets. In recognition that this can be duplicative and unnecessary in some cases, this bill allows parties to a dissolution who have an enforceable judgment of legal separation that has either adjudicated the division of property or reserved jurisdiction over the division to waive the preliminary and final declaration of disclosure requirements.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/24/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/24/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

> This broad measure makes modest updates to several policies falling within the Committee on the Judiciary that are insufficiently substantive to warrant a standalone bill. This bill exempts a petitioner and respondent from the

requirement to exchange declarations of disclosure in default judgment of dissolution proceedings if the parties have an existing enforceable judgment of separation that addresses property concerns, removes confusing reference to a child's "preference" in custody or visitation proceedings, removes reference to a vehicle contract cancellation option agreement, updates the ceiling and floor amounts for the homestead exemption, and corrects cross-references in the Code of Civil Procedure, Labor Code, and Probate Code.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 4/23/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Hadwick, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Wicks

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
6/26/26 13:09:16

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2784
Author: Committee on Judiciary
Amended: 6/25/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/11/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: State Bar of California

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Board of Trustees (Board) of the California State Bar to fix the annual license fee for active licensees for 2027 in the same amount as 2026 and makes various other changes to the State Bar Act.

ANALYSIS: Existing law:

1) Requires all attorneys who practice law in California to be licensed by the State Bar and establishes the State Bar, within the judicial branch of state government, for the purpose of regulating the legal profession. (California Constitution, article VI, § 9; Buisness & Profession (Bus. & Prof.) Code §§ 6000 et seq.)
   a) The Legislature sets the annual fees. (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6140, 6141.)
   b) The State Bar is governed by the Board. (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6010 et seq.; § 6016.)

2) Establishes that protection of the public, which includes support for greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system, is the highest priority for the State Bar in exercising their licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought

to be promoted, the protection of the public is to be paramount. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6001.1.)

3) Authorizes the State Bar to collect $553 in fees from active licensees for the year 2025. (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6140, 6140.55, 6140.6, 6140.9, 6140.10, 6140.11, 6140.13, 6140.14.)

4) Authorizes the State Bar to collect $161 in fees from inactive licensees for the year 2025. (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6141, 6140.55, 6140.6, 6140.9, 6140.10, 6140.11, 6140.13, 6140.14.)

5) Authorizes the State Bar to provide the California Lawyers Association (CLA) with administrative and support services, including the collection of the CLA's membership dues in conjunction with the collection of the annual licensing fees. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6031.5.)

6) Specifies the manner in which funds for affinity programs are to be allocated to the CLA. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6141.3.)

7) Requires the State Bar to administer a Client Security Fund (CSF) to relieve or mitigate pecuniary losses caused by the dishonest conduct of licensees of the State Bar, foreign legal consultants registered with the State Bar, and attorneys registered with the State Bar under the Multijurisdictional Practice Program, arising from or connected with the practice of law. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6140.5.)

8) Requires the State Bar to transmit to the Legislature an annual report detailing the number of complaints regarding access issues related to the biannual state bar exam. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6060.10.)

This bill:

1) Makes various findings and declarations of the Legislature related to the State Bar being a state agency.

2) Keeps license fees the same for 2027 as they were for 2026. Authorizes attorneys to file for inactive status through December 31 of the calendar year prior to becoming inactive.

3) Clarifies that a felony conviction, whether or not it involves moral turpitude, and a misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude constitutes cause for disbarment or suspension.

4) Provides that once a conviction is final, postconviction proceedings do not change the effect of the conviction for discipline purposes under the State Bar Act unless they result in a finding that the conviction is void for lack of subject matter jurisdiction or that the attorney convicted is factually innocent, in which case the court shall treat the conviction as if it did not occur.

5) Provides that when the State Bar requests records, communications, and documents as part of a disciplinary investigation they must be provided to the State Bar notwithstanding attorney-client privilege or the Attorney Work Product doctrine. Any information provided will not violate, waive, or extinguish the duty to maintain a client's confidence, attorney-client privilege, or the Attorney Work Product doctrine. All documents provided are to remain confidential unless disclosure is needed to fulfill the State Bar's duties under existing law, and these records are not public records under the California Public Records Act.

6) Authorizes the chief trial counsel or their designee to compel, by subpoena, the attorney who is the subject of an investigation.

7) Updates the notice transmitted to attorneys facing discipline to make clear that the failure to respond to the State Bar will result in a default judgment and loss of the right to practice law in California.

8) Provides that failure to reimburse the CSF as part of a license fee is a basis for suspension and repayment is a required condition to transfer the licensee's status from a suspension.

9) Specifies what information a financial institution is to provide the State Bar annually for Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA).

10) Repeals the requirement of the State Bar to collect fees on behalf of CLA as of January 1, 2030, and makes conforming changes. Removes the requirement that the State Bar assist CLA in receiving recognition from the American Bar Association, as provided.

11) Clarifies that a voluntary association of attorneys may generate low-cost continuing legal education materials, subject to State Bar approval.

12) Authorizes the State Bar to meet in closed session for specified matters.

13) Revises the allocation of moneys from affinity programs, as provided, on and after January 1, 2030.

14) Prohibits a person or entity from holding themselves out as a law school unless they are accredited by the American Bar Association or the State Bar and award a juris doctorate degree.

Comments

Last year license fees remained static. (SB 253 (Umberg, Chapter 405, Statutes of 2025.)) This bill keeps license fees at the same amount in 2027 as they were this year. This bill also authorizes attorneys to file for inactive status through December 31 of the calendar year prior to becoming inactive.

In 2017, the Legislature enacted major reforms to the structure of the State Bar by separating its trade association functions from its regulatory functions. (SB 36 (Jackson, Ch. 422, Stats. 2017.)) The Legislature recognized the inherent conflict of interest in having a unified bar and made it clear that after deunification the State Bar was to focus on its core licensing, regulatory, and discipline functions. The trade association functions were transferred to the California Lawyers Association (CLA), a private, nonprofit corporation established in statute. As it has been almost 10 years since deunification occurred, this bill seeks to make further changes to effectuate the intent of SB 36.

Prior to SB 36, the trade association aspects of the State Bar were housed in what was referred to as the sections of the State Bar. In order to join a section of the State Bar, an attorney would make an election of their annual licensing fee statement. Due to this, SB 36 required that the State Bar collect CLA's dues as part of the annual licensing fee collection process, which at the time seemed prudent to ease the transition. However, this current practice makes the State Bar the only regulatory body in the state that oversees a profession while concurrently collecting dues for a trade association of its licensees. This practice seems incongruent with the role of a licensing and regulatory agency, which is further highlighted by the fact that CLA has the authority to lobby the State Bar. As such, this bill ends the requirement of the State Bar to collect fees on behalf of CLA as

of January 1, 2030, and makes conforming changes. To further complete the process of deunification, the bill removes the requirement that the State Bar assist CLA in receiving recognition from the American Bar Association.

The Assembly Judiciary Committee heard from several local bar associations that the phrasing of existing law relating to the generation of low-cost continuing education course materials may preclude them from developing their own low-cost continuing education program. Although the existing law appears to permit an "incorporated non-profit association of attorneys" to generate continuing education requirements, the law could be read to grant CLA the exclusive right to develop low-cost trainings. To ensure that all attorney associations can produce low-cost continuing education documents, this bill would delete the specific reference to CLA and replace that reference with the phrase "a voluntary association of attorneys." This would not preclude CLA from creating continuing education materials, but will guarantee that all official bar associations can produce such materials as well. Nothing in this bill changes the existing requirement that the State Bar approve a continuing education provider.

As an additional aspect of the deunification of the State Bar was providing for the governance of how various affinity funds that were operated by the former sections of the State Bar would transfer to CLA and be used going forward. Section 6141.3 of the Bus. & Prof. Code requires certain funds to be utilized for "diversity, equity and inclusion, access to justice, and civic engagement efforts." Last year, concerns were raised about a lack of transparency from CLA regarding the use of revenues generated from the State Bar "affinity programs." The affinity programs are offered by CalBar Connect and are designed to provide discounts on services to attorneys, including malpractice insurance and other office management services. Currently, most of the revenue is provided to CLA and California Change Lawyers (the former charitable arm of the State Bar before deunification) with the remainder going to fund legal aid.

To ensure that these funds were being spent in an efficient manner, last year SB 253 (Umberg, Ch. 405, Stats. 2025) required CLA to report on how it spends its affinity revenues. That report, released in January 2026, provided top-line spending numbers but lacked the specificity stakeholders were seeking.

This bill provides that the State Bar act is not to be construed to affect or alter the status of the State Bar of California as a state agency within the judicial branch that serves as the administrative arm of the Supreme Court of California for matters relating to attorney admission, attorney discipline, and the regulation of the

practice of law. This provision is declaratory of existing law and is bolstered by the changes made by the Legislature in SB 36 to separate the bar from its professional association functions and require the State Bar to focus on its core missions of licensing, regulation, and discipline. This bill also makes a number of legislative findings and declarations to this effect, including that that no provision of the State Bar Act is to be construed to establish the State Bar as an entity independent of the State of California.

This bill also makes various other changes to enhance protection of the public including; changes to the discipline system and prohibiting person or entity from holding themselves out as a law school unless they are accredited by the American Bar Association or the State Bar and awards juris doctorate degrees.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/24/26)

State Bar of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/24/26)

1 individual

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: The author writes:

"AB 2784 is the annual vehicle to set the licensing fees for attorneys and make policy changes to the State Bar. This year's measure critically holds the licensing fee flat and does not raise fees on attorneys. The bill also formally ends the somewhat awkward legal relationship between the State Bar and the California Lawyers Association where the State Bar was collecting the membership dues of a trade group consisting of the State Bar's regulated community. Recognizing that no other legal trade organization is recognized in statute, the bill removes statutory references to the California Lawyers Association.

Finally, as is typical in the annual bar fee bill, the bill proposes several technical changes to the State Bar Act at the request of the agency to streamline State Bar governance and improve oversight of the legal industry."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/11/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick,

Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Lowenthal, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Soria

Prepared by: Amanda Mattson / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
6/26/26 13:09:17

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2792
Author: Committee on Governmental Organization
Introduced: 3/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Horse racing: out-of-state thoroughbred races: New York Stakes

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill adds the New York Stakes to the existing group of thoroughbred horse race meetings that are exempt from the 75 race-per-day limit on imported races into California for wagering.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Authorizes, pursuant to Article IV, Section 19(b) of the Constitution of the State of California, the Legislature to provide for the regulation of horse races and grants the California Horse Racing Board the authority to regulate the various forms of horse racing authorized in this state.

2) Authorizes thoroughbred racing associations or fairs to distribute the audiovisual signal and accept wagers on the results of out-of-state and international thoroughbred races during the calendar period the association or

fair is conducting live racing, including days on which there is no live racing being conducted by the association or fair.

3) Limits the number of races that may be imported by associations and fairs to no more than 75 races-per-day on days when live thoroughbred or fair racing is being conducted in this state, with specified exceptions.

4) Exempts from that 75 races-per-day limit any imported races that are part of the race card of the Kentucky Derby, the Kentucky Oaks, the Preakness Stakes, the Belmont Stakes, the Jockey Club Gold Cup, the Travers Stakes, the Pegasus World Cup, the Arlington Million, the Breeders' Cup World Championship, the Dubai World Cup, the Arkansas Derby, the Apple Blossom Handicap, the Blue Grass Stakes, the Whitney Stakes, or the Haskell Invitational.

This bill adds the New York Stakes to the existing group of thoroughbred horse race meetings that are exempt from the 75 race-per-day limit on imported races into California for wagering.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "this bill would exempt all races imported by a thoroughbred association or fair that are part of the race card of the overall New York Stakes day from the 75-race per day limit as specified in current law. The law has been amended over the years to allow the importation of certain prominent races outside of this cap for promotional and financial reasons."

The author's office further notes that this bill will help increase the wagering handle on this specific day, which will result in higher purses, racetrack revenue, and breeders' awards in California. Purses are critical to California's racing industry because they provide revenue to horse owners for their racing operations. In addition, they provide revenue to breeders through an increase in the value of their breeding stock.

Pari-mutuel Wagering. Horse racing has been active in California since the 1800s, but horse racing as we now know it – under the pari-mutuel wagering system – was not made possible until the electorate passed a constitutional amendment in 1933. The expressed intent of California's Horse Racing Law is to allow pari-mutuel wagering on horse races. Pari-mutuel, from the French term for mutual betting, is a betting system in which all bets of a particular type are placed together in a pool, and payoff odds are calculated by sharing the pool among all winning bets. Pari-mutuel betting differs from fixed-odds betting in that the final payout is not

determined until the pool is closed – in fixed-odds betting, the payout is agreed at the time the bet is sold.

Satellite Wagering. Satellite wagering via an off-track facility has been legal in California since the 1980s when California racetracks began experiencing declining attendance and handle figures. The industry believed that making the product easier to access not only would expose and market horse racing to potential customers but also make it more convenient for the existing patrons to wager more frequently. However, while off-track-betting and simulcasting can open new revenue pathways, they may cannibalize traditional on-track income, putting tracks at further financial risk and potentially contributing to closures.

Simulcasting. Simulcasting is the process of transmitting the audio and video signal of a live racing performance from one facility to a satellite for re-transmission to other locations or venues where pari-mutuel wagering is permitted. Simulcasting provides racetracks with the opportunity to increase revenues by exporting their live racing content to as many wagering locations as possible, such as other racetracks, fair satellite facilities, and Indian casinos. Revenues increase because simulcasting provides racetracks that export their live content with additional customers in multiple locations who would not have otherwise been able to place wagers on the live racing event.

Thoroughbred racing associations and fairs in California can distribute the audiovisual signal and accept wagers on the results of out-of-state thoroughbred races during their own race meetings. This is allowed even on days when no live races are being held at their venues. There is a limit on the number of out-of-state races that can be imported into California for betting purposes. On days when there is live thoroughbred or fair racing happening in California, the total number of races imported from out-of-state must not exceed 75 races-per-day.

However, there are exceptions to this limit. Races that are part of specific major events like the Kentucky Derby, Breeders' Cup, and other specified races can be imported without falling under the 75 race-per-day limit. Additional exceptions are made for importing races into certain geographical zones of California when no local live racing is occurring. Any wagering on these out-of-state races must comply with specific provisions of California's Horse Racing Law that govern how betting should be conducted. Wagers on out-of-state races are not allowed after 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time unless there is consent from the local harness or quarter horse racing associations conducting live racing in either Sacramento or Orange County.

Advance Deposit Wagering. The California horse racing industry entered into a new era in 2002 with the advent of Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) which allows customers to deposit funds into an account in order to wager online and/or over the phone. These wagers are commingled into pools at the host track where the races are run, and within the pari-mutuel wagering system regulated by CHRB. Currently, eight ADW providers are operating in the state under a CHRB license. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year (FY), off-track betting within the state provided 13% of the total handle. The balance of the handle comes from out-of-state and ADW wagers – ADW accounted for about 45% or $1.34 billion. ADW remains the only legal form of online wagering in California.

Racetrack Attendance. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and closure of non-essential businesses in California, the horse racing industry had already been experiencing a general decline in the number of people attending and wagering at live tracks in California. This has been ongoing for more than three decades due to myriad factors including increased competition from other forms of gaming, unwillingness of customers to travel a significant distance to racetracks, and easy access to off-track wagering.

Status of the Horse Racing Industry in California. The California horse racing industry's long-term health is threatened by a combination of factors including competition from racing in other states and overseas, other forms of gaming within California, declining attendance, and the potential for higher value return by redeveloping the track property rather than continuing to operate in the face of declining revenues. As resources shrink, the industry is experiencing deficits in virtually every one of its revenue sources. Traditional take out, allocation, and distribution formulas are no longer able to sustain ongoing operations.

As the value of racing operations declines, track ownership is struggling to maximize the necessary return on the investment and tempted by alternative uses of the property that yield higher returns. Consequently, the racing industry is suffering unprecedented instability and capital flight. Tens of thousands of industry jobs are in immediate jeopardy, along with breeding farms as well as open space in urban centers throughout California. Also at risk is a substantial amount of local and state revenue generated both directly and indirectly by the industry.

Further exacerbating the horse racing industry's woes, the USA Today published an article in June of last year titled, "ICE raid on track workers sends shockwaves around racing, 'puts horses at risk.'" The article notes that federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents raided the Delta Downs racetrack in

Vinton, Louisiana on June 17, 2025. More than 80 backstretch workers were reportedly detained, which the article notes "should be a wake-up call for an industry that would simply not be able to function without a workforce of grooms and hotwalkers and stall cleaners who are, by some credible estimates, 75% immigrants. They come from places like Venezuela, Panama, Colombia and Mexico, working low-wage jobs but filling indispensable roles, caring round-the-clock for animals worth hundreds of thousands, even millions of dollars."

Prominent trainer Dale Romans told reporters during a Kentucky Derby-week news conference set up to address the threat posed by a potential U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at a racetrack, "if we couldn't have an immigrant workforce on the backside, I don't know how horse racing exists."

The New York Stakes. The New York Stakes is a Grade I American thoroughbred horse race for fillies and mares aged four-years-old and older run over a distance of one and one-quarter miles on the turf and scheduled annually in early June at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York. Inaugurated in 1940 as the New York Handicap at Aqueduct Racetrack, it was moved to Belmont Park in 1961 but returned to Aqueduct in 1963, where it remained until 1975, when it was permanently shifted to Belmont Park. Since its inception, it has been contested at various distances on both dirt and turf.

In 2025, the 4-year-old filly She Feels Pretty won the $750,000 New York Stakes providing trainer Cherie DeVaux her first win in the prestigious race. The Eclipse Award-winning filly covered 1 3/16 miles on a yielding turf course in 2:00.76. The race is a headline event on the day before the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the Triple Crown.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1294 (S. Rubio, 2026) adds the Japan Cup to the existing group of thoroughbred horse race meetings that are exempt from the 75 race-per-day limit on imported races into California for wagering. (Pending in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

AB 2536 (B. Rubio, 2026) makes various minor and technical changes to the California Horse Racing Law, as specified. (Pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee)

SB 844 (S. Rubio, 2025) increases the limit on the importation of out-of-state thoroughbred races by a California thoroughbred racing association or fair for pari-mutuel wagering from 75 to 80 races-per-day, as specified. (Pending in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

AB 1526 (Committee on Governmental Organization, 2025) makes various technical and non-substantive changes to provisions of law related to horse racing. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Brian Duke / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
6/25/26 15:07:41

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2793
Author: Committee on Governmental Organization
Introduced: 3/17/26
Vote: 21

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORG. COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Rubio, Valladares, Archuleta, Ashby, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle, Hurtado, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, Wahab, Weber Pierson
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Gambling Control Commission

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill modifies the requirement that one member of the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience, to instead require that one member of the Commission be a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory *or gaming law* experience.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, under the Gambling Control Act (Act), for the licensure and regulation of various legalized gambling activities and establishments by the Commission and the investigation and enforcement of those activities and establishments by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

2) Provides that the Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation of the Senate, and requires the Governor to designate one member to serve as chairperson.

3) Requires that the Commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general Internet public.

4) Authorizes the Governor to remove any member of the Commission for incompetence, neglect of duty, or corruption upon first giving the member a copy of the charges and an opportunity to be heard.

5) Requires the Governor to fill any vacancies on the Commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy.

6) Provides that a person is ineligible for appointment to the Commission if, within two years prior to appointment, the person was employed by, retained by, or derived substantial income from, a gambling establishment.

This bill:

1) Modifies the requirement that one member of the Commission be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience, to instead require that one member of the Commission be a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory *or gaming law* experience.

2) Makes various technical, non-substantive changes.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author's office, "gaming laws are often complex, covering a range of issues such as licensing, taxation, consumer protection, responsible gambling, and anti-money laundering. An expert in gaming law can help navigate these complexities and ensure the laws and regulations are applied correctly."

Furthermore, "one of the main roles of regulatory bodies is to protect consumers and ensure fair play. Someone with expertise in gaming law can help the Commission further create policies that protect players from unfair practices and

ensure their rights are respected. In addition, the gaming industry is evolving quickly with new technologies, such as sports betting, online gaming, e-sports, and mobile platforms. A gaming law expert would help the Commission stay ahead of these trends while making sure new practices are compliant with existing laws or can be properly regulated."

Gambling Control Act. The Act provides the Commission with jurisdiction over the operation of gambling establishments in California. The Act requires every owner, lessee, or employee of a gambling establishment to obtain and maintain a valid state gambling license. The Act assigns the Commission the responsibility of assuring that gambling licenses are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is harmful to the public health, safety, or welfare.

The Act directs the Commission to issue licenses only to those persons of good character, honesty and integrity, whose prior activities, criminal record, if any; reputation, habits and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state. The DOJ conducts background and field investigations and enforces the provisions of the Act in this regard.

California Gambling Control Commission. The Commission is composed of five members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the California State Senate. State law establishes several requirements to ensure professional expertise and political balance on the Commission. For example, no more than three of the five commissioners may belong to the same political party. The statute also requires that the commission collectively include individuals with diverse professional backgrounds, such as experience in finance or accounting, law with regulatory expertise, law enforcement or criminal investigation, business or government, and representation of the general public.

Current law authorizes the Governor to remove a member of the Commission for incompetence, neglect of duty, or corruption upon first giving the member a copy of the charges and an opportunity to be heard. This bill modifies the requirement that one member of the Commission be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory law experience, to instead require that one member of the Commission be an attorney and a member of the State Bar of California with regulatory *or gaming law* experience.

Prior/Related Legislation

SB 1235 (G.O., 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Senate and Assembly Committees on Governmental Organization of the removal of a member of the Commission. (Pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee)

AB 2173 (Wallis, 2026) requires the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2644 (Rubio, 2026) requires the Governor to notify the Legislature of the removal of any member of the Commission. (Pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee)

SB 864 (Padilla, 2025) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Gutted and Amended to an Unrelated Issue)

SB 1154 (Alvarado-Gil, 2024) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Never Heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee)

SB 346 (Ochoa-Bogh, 2023) would have required the Commission to post a public record of every vote on its Internet Web site no later than two business days after the meeting at which the vote was taken. (Never Heard in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/4/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly,

Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Chen, Flora, Wallis, Wilson

Prepared by: Felipe Lopez / G.O. / (916) 651-1530
6/25/26 15:07:42

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2796
Author: Committee on Public Safety
Amended: 8/18/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/11/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 7/2/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Criminal history information: background checks

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to existing laws authorizing federal-level background checks to be conducted in relation to employment, volunteering, and licensing, in order to bring state law into compliance with federal law to ensure state entities have access to federal criminal history information.

Senate Floor Amendments of 8/18/26 include language to avoid chaptering issues with SB 1083.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to maintain state summary criminal history information, as defined, and to furnish this information to various state and local government officers, officials, and other prescribed entities, if needed in the course of their duties. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 11105, subds. (a), (b).)

2) Defines "state summary criminal history information" to mean the master record of information compiled by the Attorney General pertaining to the

identification and criminal history of a person, such as name, date of birth, physical description, fingerprints, photographs, dates of arrests, arresting agencies and booking numbers, charges, dispositions, sentencing information, and similar data about the person. (Pen. Code, § 11105, subd. (a)(2)(A).)

3) Authorizes DOJ to furnish state summary criminal history information and, when specifically authorized by this subdivision, federal-level criminal history information upon a showing of a compelling need to specified entities including peace officers of the United States, other states, or territories or possessions of the United States. (Pen. Code, § 11105, subd. (c).)

4) Specifies that a fingerprint-based criminal history information check that is required pursuant to any statute is to be requested from the DOJ. Requires DOJ, when a government agency or other entity requests such a criminal history check for purposes of employment, licensing, or certification, to disseminate specified information in response to the request, including information regarding convictions and arrests for which the applicant is presently awaiting trial. (Pen. Code, § 11105, subd. (u).)

5) Requires all volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors of a criminal justice agency to undergo a state and federal criminal background check. (Pen. Code, §§ 11105.002, 11105.5.)

6) Authorizes, notwithstanding any other law, a human resource agency or an employer to request from DOJ records of all convictions or any arrest pending adjudication involving specified offenses of a person who applies for a license, employment, or volunteer position, in which they would have supervisory or disciplinary power over a minor or any person under their care. Requires DOJ to furnish the information to the requesting employer and to send a copy of the information to the applicant. (Pen. Code, § 11105.3, subd. (a).)

7) Requires that a request for records pursuant to the above provision include the applicant's fingerprints and any other data specified by DOJ. (Pen. Code, § 11105.3, subd. (b).)

8) Requires that the determination of whether the criminal history record shows that the applicant, employee, or volunteer has been convicted of, or is under the pending indictment for, any crime that bears upon the fitness of the individual to have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children, the elderly, the handicapped, or the mentally impaired, is solely made by the human resource

agency or employer. Provides that DOJ is not required to make such a determination on behalf of any human resource agency or employer. (Pen. Code, § 11105.3, subd. (b)(2)(E).)

9) Requires an application used to determine the eligibility to own a firearm to include two copies of the applicant's fingerprints. (Pen. Code, § 23520.)

10) Requires employees of entities that have contracts with a private school or heritage school and provide services, including schoolsite administrative or grounds, landscape maintenance and instruction, to provide their fingerprints to DOJ, as specified. (Education (Ed.) Code, § 33192.)

11) Requires employees of an entity that contracts with a local educational agency to, if the employee interacts with pupils without the immediate supervision of, among others, a school employee, complete a criminal background check, as specified. (Ed. Code, § 45125.1.)

12) Requires that a county, city, city and county, or special district has specified prospective employees or volunteers complete a background check that inquires as to whether the applicant has been convicted of certain offenses. (Public (Pub.) Resources (Res.) Code, § 5164.)

13) Requires that resource family home environment assessment standards include, but not be limited to, a criminal record clearance search of each applicant and all adults residing in, or regularly present in, the home, and not exempted from fingerprinting, as specified, utilizing a check of the Child Abuse Central Index, and receipt of a fingerprint-based state and federal criminal offender record information search response. Requires the criminal history information to include subsequent notification. (Welfare (Welf.) & Institutions (Inst.) Code, §16519.5, subd. (d)(2)(A)(i).)

14) Requires the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to screen all providers and designate each provider as "limited," "moderate," or "high" categorical risk. Requires DHCS, for all providers designated as a "high" categorical risk, to conduct a criminal background check and require specified individuals to submit a set of fingerprints within 30 days of the DHCS's request in a manner specified by the department. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 14043.38.)

15) Requires DHCS to require that specified applicants, providers, and individuals submit fingerprint images and related information for purposes of a state and

federal criminal background check and prescribes a procedure for DHCS and DOJ to follow for these purposes. (Health & Safety (Saf.) Code, § 1522.)

16) Requires the State Department of Social Services (CDSS) to license and regulate community care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, residential care facilities for the elderly, and childcare centers. Requires the department to obtain a criminal record for all applicants for licenses for these facilities and services and specified other employees and officers of these facilities, including, among others, adults responsible for the administration or direct supervision of staff, a staff person, volunteer, or employee who has contact with clients, and, if the applicant is a firm, partnership, association, or corporation, the chief executive officer or other person serving in a like capacity. (Health & Saf. Code, §§ 1568.09, 1569.17, 1596.871.)

17) Requires the submission of fingerprints to the department for certifying a massage professional, licensing a professional fiduciary, registering a tax preparer, confirming the appointment of a humane officer, working for a bank or its affiliates, and licensing an escrow agent, as specified. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 4604, 6533.5, 22253.5; Corporations (Corp.) Code, § 14502; Finance (Fin.) Code, §§ 1300, 17331.)

18) Prohibits a person from, among other things, acting as a broker or salesperson for the purchase or sale of a yacht without a license. Authorizes the issuance of a temporary license to a salesperson under specified conditions. Requires an applicant for a broker or salesperson license to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check. (Harbors & Navigation Code, § 725.)

This bill:

1) Specifies that the requirement that all volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors of a criminal justice agency undergo a state and federal criminal background check only applies to a volunteer, contractor, or subcontractor who provides specified services or has direct or remote access to the agency's systems or unescorted access to the agency's facilities.

2) Provides that notwithstanding any other law, any statutory requirement for an entity subject to any statutory requirement for an entity to conduct a federal criminal history information check for licensing, certification, or employment

purposes does not apply if the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has not authorized the entity to conduct a federal criminal history information check under the applicable federal laws and regulations.

3) Authorizes an entity to make licensing, certification, or employment decisions based on the results of a state criminal history information check until the FBI has authorized them to conduct a federal criminal history information check.

4) States that if the FBI authorizes an entity to conduct the federal criminal history information check, the entity must require an applicant, licensee, certified individual, and employee who did not previously undergo the federal criminal history information check to resubmit their fingerprints for that purpose.

5) Requires DOJ, for purposes of implementing the provisions of the National Child Protection Act of 1993, as amended by the Volunteers for Children Act, to develop the California Volunteer and Employee Criminal History Service Program.

6) Specifies, notwithstanding any other law, a qualified entity may require a covered individual to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check pursuant to the above provision.

7) Provides the following definitions for purposes of the California Volunteer and Employee Criminal History Service Program:

   a) "Care" means the provision of services, treatment, education, training, instruction, supervision, or recreation to children, the elderly, or an individual with a disability.
   b) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.
   c) "Covered individual" means a person who has or may have access to a person served by a qualified entity, and meets one of the following criteria:
   d) Is a current or prospective employee or volunteer of a qualified entity, or,
   e) Is a current or prospective owner or operator of a qualified entity.
   f) "Elderly" means a person 60 years of age or older.
   g) "Employee" means every person in the service of a qualified entity under any appointment or contract of hire or apprenticeship, express or implied, oral or written.
   h) "Individual with a disability" means a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of a physical or mental impairment, or a

person who is perceived by others as having a physical or mental impairment.

i) "Qualified entity" means a business or organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care or licenses, certifies, or places others to provide care.

j) "Volunteer" means an individual who performs work without promise, expectation, or receipt of any compensation for any work performed.

8) Deletes DOJ fitness determination provisions from various statutes.

9) Requires an applicant for a certificate of eligibility and a dangerous weapons license or permit issued by DOJ, including, among other weapons, an assault weapon or short-barreled shotgun, to submit to DOJ fingerprint images and related information for purposes of conducting a state and national criminal history background check, as specified, and for the purpose of determining if the applicant is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, receiving, owning, or purchasing a firearm. Requires DOJ to retain the fingerprint impressions for subsequent arrest notification, as specified.

10) Revises the process to conduct a fingerprint background check for individuals seeking employment with any entity that contracts with a local education agency to provide services.

11) Revises the process to conduct a fingerprint background check for individuals seeking certification as a massage professional, licensing as a professional fiduciary, registering as a tax preparer, confirming the appointment of a humane officer, working for a bank or its affiliates, and licensing as an escrow agent, as specified.

12) Authorizes DOJ to share criminal history information with peace officers of tribes in other states.

13) Includes within the list of persons for whom CDSS is required to obtain criminal background checks for purposes of licensing and regulation of a community care facility, child care facility, residential facilities, an administrator, supervisor, manager, or director of the facility, or an individual acting in those roles, an adult responsible for the operation of the facility, and a person with a 10% or greater financial interest in the applicant.

14) Includes limited liability companies within applicant types for which the above applies.

15) Revises the authority that exists for DHCS to require a Medi-Cal provider or applicant to undergo criminal background checks to additionally authorize the Department of Public Health to require these background checks as an alternative.

16) Defines the following terms for purposes of the provision authorizing background checks for specified Medi-Cal providers and applicants:

    a) "Applicant" means an individual, including an ordering, referring, or prescribing individual, entity, or person with ownership or control interest in the applicant entity, managing employee, or agent that applies for enrollment as a provider in the Medi-Cal program that is subject to federal screening level requirements under Sections 424.518 and 455.450 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
    b) "Person with ownership or control interest," "managing employee," and "agent" have the same meanings as defined in Section 455.101 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
    c) "Provider" means an individual, entity, person with ownership or control interest in the entity, managing employee, or agent that is enrolled in the Medi-Cal program that furnishes, directly or indirectly, including all ordering, referring, and prescribing, any service, good, supply, or merchandise to a Medi-Cal beneficiary whose enrollment is subject to federal screening level requirements under Sections 424.518 and 455.450 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

17) Authorizes the Housing Development and Finance Committee (HDFC) to require an employee, prospective employee, volunteer, contractor, or subcontractor to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check. Requires HDFC or the Department of Housing and Community Development to submit fingerprint images and related information to DOJ for a person subject to a state and national criminal history background check.

18) Authorizes the Deputy Director of Boating and Waterways to extend the term of a temporary license or issue a new temporary license to provide an applicant for a broker or salesperson license time to comply with the criminal history background requirement, as specified.

19) States that the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) must require an applicant for a registered nurse license, as defined, to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check. Requires the BRN to submit to DOJ fingerprint images and related

20) Information for individuals who are subject to a state and national criminal history background check, pursuant to existing provisions of law. Requires DOJ to provide a state and federal level response pursuant to existing provisions of law.

21) Contains an urgency clause in order for the bill to go into effect immediately.

22) Contains a savings clause so that any other bill enacted by the Legislature during the 2026 calendar year that amends the same section amended by this bill will prevail over this bill, whether it is chaptered before or after this bill. Specifies that this language does not apply to the provisions of this bill that amend Section 45125.1 of the Education Code.

23) Makes other technical and conforming changes.

Background

This is a committee bill to make technical or minorly substantive amendments to existing statutes that authorize federal-level background checks. These changes are needed because the FBI has flagged certain statutes to be out of compliance with PL 92-544 which generally prohibits access to federal criminal history information by a private entity. The provisions of this bill would bring these statutes back into compliance with federal law.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:Yes

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/18/26)

California Association of Private School Organizations
Peace Officers Research Association of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/18/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 7/2/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Bryan, Calderon, Chen, Elhawary, Ellis, Papan, Ransom, Sanchez

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /916-651-4118
8/24/26 13:37:37

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACA 7
Author: Jackson (D), et al.
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 27

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-2, 6/3/26
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/9/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 4-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle
NO VOTE RECORDED: Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 54-14, 2/19/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Government preferences

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This Constitutional Amendment, if approved by voters, would amend the California Constitution to replace "public education" with "public higher education admissions and enrollment" in subdivision (a) Section 31, of Article I, which prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. The measure requires that it appear on the statewide general election ballot on November 7, 2028.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law pursuant to the United States Constitution:

1) Declares all people born or naturalized in the United States are citizens of the United States and are citizens of the state where they reside. Prohibits any state from making or enforcing any law that abridges the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States. Prohibits any state from depriving any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. Prohibits any state from denying any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law. (United States Constitution (USC), Amendment 14, the Equal Protection Clause)

Existing Federal law:

2) No person in the United States will, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance except for specified circumstances, including membership of fraternities and sororities. (20 USC 1681-168 Title IX)

3) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or/and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal assistance. (42 USC 2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)

4) Prohibits discrimination in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and prohibits retaliation against employees who invoke their rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. (42 USC 2000e Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)

Existing law, pursuant to the California State Constitution:

5) States that a person is not to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law or denied equal protection of the laws. (Section 7 of Article 1 of the California State Constitution)

6) Prohibits the State, in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting, from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or any group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. States the implementation is to comply with federal laws and the USC and defines the "state" to include the public university system (including the University of California (UC)). Nothing in the aforementioned clause is to be interpreted as:

a) Prohibiting bona fide qualifications based on sex, which are reasonably necessary to the normal operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

b) Prohibiting action which must be taken to establish or maintain eligibility for any federal program, where ineligibility would result in a loss of federal funds to the State.

c) Invalidating any court order or consent decree, which is in force as of the effective date of the section. (Section 31 of Article 1 of the California State Constitution (Proposition 209))

Existing State law:

7) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the UC, California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC); and, defines "independent institutions of higher education" as nonpublic higher education institutions that grant undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, or both, and that are formed as nonprofit corporations in California and are accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. (Education Code (EC) Section 66010, et seq.)

8) States that no person is to be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any characteristic listed or defined in Section 11135 of the Government Code or any other characteristic that is contained in the prohibition of hate crimes, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 422.6 of the Penal Code, including immigration status. States the prohibition on the discrimination on the basis of the listed characteristics is extended to programs or activities conducted by any postsecondary education institution that receives or benefits from, state financial assistance or enrolls students who receive state financial aid. (EC § 66270)

9) States that no person is to be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives, or benefits from, state financial assistance, or enrolls pupils who receive state student financial aid. (EC § 220)

This measure:

1) Amends the California State Constitution, upon approval of the voters of California, by replacing "public education" with "public higher education admissions and enrollment" in subdivision (a) Section 31, of Article I, which prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Specifically, it:

   a) Removes "*public education"* from the list of activities which are prohibited from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group, on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

   b) Adds *"public higher education admission and enrollment"* to the list of activities which are prohibited from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group, on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

   c) States that the prohibition on discrimination and the granting of preferential treatment only apply to actions of the State after the section's effective date and is limited to the areas of public employment, higher education admission and enrollment, and public contracting.

   d) Requires that the measure appear on the ballot at the November 7, 2028 statewide general election.

   e) Makes various legislative findings and declarations regarding racial equity gaps.

   f) Makes various technical and clarifying changes.

Comments

1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "ACA 7 seeks to provide clarity to existing legislation concerning Proposition 209, also known as Article I, Section 31 of the California Constitution. For too long, the provisions of this law have been subject to broad interpretation, leaving Californians without a clear understanding of its intended application. This measure introduces clarifying language and makes an adjustment to focus specifically on "higher

education admissions and enrollment." These changes will help ensure a more accurate interpretation of the state constitution, allowing its provisions to be implemented as originally intended."

2) *Proposition 209.* Proposition 209, approved by voters in 1996, added Article 1, Section 31 to the California Constitution, prohibiting discrimination against or granting preferential treatment to individuals or groups on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting. Proposition 209 did not replace broader anti-discrimination protections, as state and federal constitutional equal protection guarantees and other civil rights laws continue to apply independently (outlined in the background section of this analysis). Seemingly, Proposition 209 serves as an additional constitutional limitation rather than the sole source of anti-discrimination protection. As noted in the Assembly Judiciary Committee analysis, "the language prohibiting discrimination was largely superfluous, given that the state and federal law as well as the equal protection clause of 14th Amendment, already prohibited such discrimination. What Proposition 209 effectively did was to prohibit preferential treatment which is generally understood to mean either setting quotas or, considering race as a one factor among many in someone's qualification."

   Proposition 209 restricted affirmative action programs involving preferential treatment in the prescribed areas. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in their review of Proposition 16 in 2020, prior to Proposition 209, state and local entities had policies and programs intended to increase opportunities and representation for people who faced inequalities as a result of their race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. After the adoption of Proposition 209, for higher education, this meant public colleges and universities could no longer consider those characteristics in admission decisions or operate certain programs specifically designed to increase access, representation, or support for historically underrepresented student groups. After voters approved Proposition 209, some public universities created or modified policies and programs to instead consider characteristics not banned by Proposition 209.

3) *Related ballot measure***.** In 2020, the Legislature approved ACA 5 (Weber, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2020), which asked voters for full repeal of Proposition 209. ACA 5 was placed before California voters as Proposition 16 on the November 3, 2020, statewide general election ballot, where it failed passage with 57 percent of voters voting NO. The LAO noted in its fiscal analysis of the ballot measure, that it would have no direct fiscal effect on state and local

entities because the measure would not require any change to current policies or programs. Instead, any fiscal effects would depend on future choices by state and local entities to implement policies or programs that consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public education, public employment, and public contracting.

This measure, ACA 7, proposes a more targeted change to Proposition 209, limiting its application in public education to public higher education admission and enrollment, thereby removing other K-12 and higher education activities from its scope.

According to the Assembly Judiciary Committee Analysis, "While leaving "higher education admissions and enrollment" in Article I, Section 31 is consistent with existing case law, it remains to be seen whether policies permitted under this proposed constitutional provision would violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. To be clear, this measure would not – indeed, could not – by itself violate the equal protection clause; because it does not by itself discriminate against, or grant a preference to, any individual or group. It simply declares what the state cannot do; it does not say what it can or must do. The opponents of this measure, therefore, are apparently concerned that this proposed change in the state constitution might permit policies that violate the equal protection clause. If the intent of the measure is to permit K-12 to discriminate on the basis of race, or permit colleges and universities to discriminate on the basis of race in everything other than admissions and enrollment, those polices might pass constitutional muster under the state constitution, as revised, but those policies might still violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, at least as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court in Students for Fair Admissions."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- This bill could result in additional, unknown Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures for the state or K-12 local educational agencies (LEAs) to enact policies and programs providing preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. However, these costs are difficult to quantify because the bill does not necessarily require any changes to current policies or programs. The exact costs would depend on any decisions that are made by the state or LEAs with respect to the

implementation of policies or programs that consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

- This measure would result in one-time General Fund costs to the Secretary of State (SOS) in the range of $738,000 to $984,000, likely in 2028-29, for printing and mailing costs to place the measure on the ballot in a statewide election. Actual costs may be higher or lower, depending on the length of required elements and the overall size of the ballot.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/15/26)

A2MEND
Advanced Consulting, LLC
Berkeley Reparations Coalition
Black Educator Advocates Network
Black Parallel School Board
Black Students of California United
BLU Educational Foundation
Bulletproof Group
Californians for Justice
Californians Together
Canal Alliance
CCHALES Research Collective
Center for Black Educator Development
Central Valley Movement Building Organizing Institute
Children Now
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Community Schools Learning Exchange
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement
EdTrust-West
EdVoice
Grand Performances
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Immigrants Rising
Innercity Struggle
Island Grad and SBCUSD Pasifika Program
KHK Solutions LLC
Little Manila Rising
Los Angeles Urban Foundation
Mission Graduates
National Equity Project

Northern California College Promise Coalition
Parent Engagement Academy
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
Prismatic Research & Strategy
Public Advocates
SoCal Pacific Islander Community Response Team
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern California Pacific Islander Community Response Team
Students Rising Above
Teach Plus California
The Village Method
United Parents and Students
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
Watts of Power Foundation
Young Invincibles

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/15/26)

California Family Council
Californians for Equal Rights Foundation
Center for Equal Opportunity
Elk Grove Chinese Association
Equal Rights for All PAC
San Diego Asian Americans for Equality
The American Civil Rights Project

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 54-14, 2/19/26
AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Addis, Alanis, Bains, Bryan, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Lackey, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/17/26 11:19:11

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 165
Author: Kalra (D)
Introduced: 3/25/26
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-0, 6/18/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: The 2026 International Day of Yoga

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes June 21, 2026, as the 2026 International Day of Yoga in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) California is home to many yoga teachers, students, studios, and classes that have collectively contributed to the significant growth of yoga throughout the United States. Yoga has become one of the fastest growing wellness practices in the past decade, with approximately 36,000,000 Americans estimated to practice yoga regularly, and one in three Americans have at least tried yoga once.

2) Yoga brings strength, stability, and unity within the body, mind, and emotions. Recent studies suggest that yoga-based interventions can be an effective treatment for various health conditions and mental health disorders and can complement traditional medical interventions and therapy. Regular yoga practitioners report benefits such as reduction in stress, positive increase in temperament, being physically stronger, and reduced inflammation, pain, and stiffness.

3) This year marks the 12th International Day of Yoga and people worldwide use this celebratory day to raise awareness of the history, benefits, and teachings of yoga.

This resolution recognizes June 21, 2026, as the 2026 International Day of Yoga in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/23/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 63-0, 6/18/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Bains, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Haney, Johnson, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Papan, Patel, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Soria, Tangipa, Wicks

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-4171
6/24/26 14:17:30

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 173
Author: Carrillo (D), et al.
Introduced: 4/8/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/8/26
AYES: Wahab, Archuleta, Arreguín, Caballero, Grayson, Menjivar, Smallwood-Cuevas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Niello, Strickland, Umberg

SUBJECT: Sister state: State of Jalisco

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recommits to formalizing the sister state relationship between the State of Jalisco in Mexico and the State of California.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law establishes, via Senate Concurrent Resolution 82 (Heuso, Resolution Chapter 70, Statutes of 2014) a sister state relationship with the State of Jalisco in Mexico and California, acknowledging the economic opportunities in high technology manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, amongst other important industries.

This resolution:

1) Recognizes the mutually beneficial educational, economic and culture exchanges between the State of Jalisco and State of California.

2) Continues the long-standing cross-national collaboration and goodwill between California and Jalisco in addressing immigration policies while maintaining liberties and due process for all residents in California granted by the state Constitution regardless of immigration status.

3) Promotes mutual respect for the residents of the bordering states.

Background

This resolution recommits to formalizing the sister-state relationship between California and Jalisco by embracing the shared investments in high technology manufacturing, agriculture ties, and cultural traditions and tourism. Recognized as "Mexico's Silicon Valley", Guadalajara, located in the State of Jalisco, is the largest technology center in Mexico, known as a major Latin and North American hub, and is a main producer of software, electronics and digital products. This burgeoning electronics market aligns with California's technology sector promoting job creation and sustainable innovation in both regions. The cultural traditions and heritage that originated in Jalisco have permeated California in displays of mariachi music, charreadas (Mexican rodeos), the Mexican Hat Dance, and the wide brimmed sombrero. The culinary exports from Jalisco to California include a variety of tequilas grown from the indigenous agave plant found in Mexico and a plethora of native dishes, including the meat stew dish of birria.

The historical Unites States Bracero Program brought agricultural laborers from Jalisco to California enriching the economic relationship and encouraging a deep-rooted generational connection between the states that continues to this day, particularly in agricultural areas located in the Central Valley and in the larger urban areas of Los Angeles. Today, this vast migration connects California and Jalisco through established family networks, cultural ties and shared prosperity encouraging Jalisco immigrants and their relatives to integrate into all sectors of business, participate in their community and contribute to their shared heritage and culture through music, the arts, cultural festivals and cuisine.

ACR 173 supports cooperative research by universities in California and Jalisco enriching this bi-national relationship by promoting bilateral economic development and stimulating employment in Mexican immigrant communities benefiting the residents in both states.

This resolution recognizes the vested interests and economic relationship between the States of Jalisco and California, promotes sustained goodwill and collaboration by continuing bilateral cooperation in the face of shifting federal policies on immigration enforcement, while maintaining mutual respect and honoring civil liberties for the residents in both regions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/8/26)

Asociacion De Jaliscienses Unidos En Accion (AJUA)
Mexican-American Policy Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/8/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Asociacion De Jaliscienses and Unidos En Accion (AJUA) write in support, "The relationship between California and Jalisco simply makes sense. Cross-border economic ties translate into real benefits for workers, businesses, and families on both sides – so investing in local-level collaboration is a practical, high impact approach. ACR 173 truly aligns with our mission to preserve and promote the Mexican roots in the United States, supporting the migrant community through services, education, culture, guidance and social programs that improve their quality of life."

The Mexican-American Policy Initiative notes in support, "This state sisterhood is a natural next step in cementing the strong relationship between Jalisco and California. Over 1 million people of Jalisco origin live in California. Jalisco and California share more than just people-they also share a rich, beautiful history shaped by culture and language. A sister-state relationship between the two would create opportunities to promote and share cultural and tourism experiences, while also encouraging joint business growth and workforce development collaboration."

Prepared by: Anna Billy / B., P. & E.D. /
6/10/26 16:52:25

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 176
Author: Elhawary (D), et al.
Introduced: 4/15/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Second Chance Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the month of April 2026 as Second Chance Month in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) Every individual is endowed with human dignity and value. Redemption and second chances are values of California. Restorative justice through healing and rehabilitation can help uplift society.

2) An estimated 8 million residents of California have a criminal record. About 35,000 Californians return to their communities from prison every year.

3) For individuals returning to their communities from prison or jail, gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry and has been shown to reduce future criminal activity.

4) Many individuals who have been incarcerated struggle to find employment and access capital to start a small business because of collateral consequences, which are sometimes not directly related to the offenses the individuals committed or any proven public safety benefit.

5) An individual who has been convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge through some formal education programs.

6) Those barriers can have an impact on public safety by contributing to recidivism.

7) The designation of April 2026 as Second Chance Month may contribute to increased public awareness about the impact of collateral consequences and the need for closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt.

This resolution proclaims the month of April 2026 as Second Chance Month in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:No Local:No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/8/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/8/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
5/13/26 16:27:54

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 199
Author: Kalra (D) and Patel (D)
Introduced: 5/6/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: India's Independence Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes August 15, 2026, as India's Independence Day and urge all Californians to join in celebrating India's independence.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) India's Independence Day is celebrated on August 15 of each year to commemorate its independence. It was celebrated by 400 million Indians in 1947 and today is celebrated by over one billion people living in India and many people living in other parts of the world, including California, which is home to the largest population of Asian Indians in the United States.

2) India's Independence Day is one of the most important national holidays in India. The biggest event of the day takes place in Delhi, where the Prime Minister hoists the national flag at the Red Fort, delivers a nationally televised speech that highlights the achievements of the government, discusses current issues and future plans for progress, and pays tribute to the leaders of India's struggle for freedom.

3) The local community of people in California who hail from India, or with ancestral ties to India, continually demonstrate the greatness and beauty of their homeland, and their contributions are notable and reflect success in many industries and community activism.

4) Ever since August 15, 1947, India's nonviolent struggle for freedom, its rejection of terrorism and extremism, and its belief in democracy, tolerance, and the rule of law have been an inspiration and beacon of hope for people around the world.

This resolution recognizes August 15, 2026, as India's Independence Day and urges all Californians to join in celebrating India's independence.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 100 (Kalra, 2025) – Held on inactive file.
ACR 214 (Kalra, Resolution Chapter 170, Statutes of 2024)
ACR 90 (Kalra, Resolution Chapter 154, Statutes of 2023)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
8/12/26 14:01:52

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
(916) 651-4171

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 207
Author: Kalra (D) and Patel (D)
Introduced: 5/18/26
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 7/2/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution designates the month of October 2026 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. The measure would also recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to the state and seek to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community, and would condemn all hate crimes and bias incidents against Hindu Americans, Hindu temples and centers, and places of significance to the Hindu American community.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) California and the nation have been influenced by the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity of its residents.

2) The year 2026 marks the 133rd anniversary of when Hinduism was officially introduced to the United States by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the World's Parliament of Religions in the City of Chicago, and the 126th anniversary of when he founded the Vedanta Society in the City of San Francisco, California, in 1900.

3) Despite their positive contributions to California and this nation, Hindu Americans face stereotypes and misconceptions about their heritage and have been the targets of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes.

4) According to the California vs Hate program within the Civil Rights Department, 23 percent of all religiously motivated hate incidents in the state reported to the hotline were directed at Hindus.

This resolution recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 216 (Kalra, Chapter 182, Statutes of 2024)
ACR 91 (Kalra, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2023)
ACR 209 (Kalra, 2022); Died in Senate Rules Committee.
ACR 103 (Kalra, Chapter 8, Statutes of 2022)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/5/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/5/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 7/2/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Bryan, Calderon, Chen, Elhawary, Ellis, Papan, Ransom, Sanchez

Prepared by: Destiny Bustos / SFA / (916) 651-4171
8/5/26 15:18:27

****** END ******

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THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 211
Author: Celeste Rodriguez (D), et al.
Introduced: 5/21/26
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 6/4/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Zoot Suit Riots

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution commemorates every June as the annual anniversary of the Zoot Suit Riots.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

1) The Zoot Suit Riots were a series of conflicts that occurred in June 1943 in the City of Los Angeles between United States servicemen and Mexican American youths, the latter of whom wore outfits called zoot suits.

2) Pressures related to the United States involvement in World War II contributed to the racial tensions that preceded the riots. As part of the war effort, by March 1942, the United States had begun rationing various resources. Restrictions on wool had a direct effect on the manufacture of wool suits and other clothing. This exacerbated racial tensions, as Mexican American youths wearing the zoot suits were seen as un-American because they were deliberately ignoring the rationing regulations.

3) During the period from 1942 through 1943, the news media continued to portray the zoot-suiters as dangerous gang members who were capable of murder. It was in this racially charged atmosphere that the conflict between predominantly White servicemen stationed in southern California and Mexican American youths in the area began.

4) The worst of the rioting occurred on the night of June 7, 1943, when thousands of servicemen and citizens prowled the streets of the downtown area of the City

of Los Angeles, attacking zoot-suiters as well as members of minority groups who were not wearing zoot suits.

5) The fact that considerably more Mexican Americans than servicemen were arrested, upward of 600 of the former, according to some estimates, fueled criticism of the Los Angeles Police Department's response to the riots from some quarters.

This resolution commemorates every June as the annual anniversary of the Zoot Suit Riots.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 84 (Wendy Carillo, 2024) – Held in Senate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/15/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/15/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 6/4/26
AYES: Addis, Ahrens, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Bains, Castillo, Chen, Flora, Garcia, Mark González, Johnson, McKinnor, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Valencia

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
6/15/26 14:57:49

****** END ******

Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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THIRD READING

Bill No: AJR 6
Author: Aguiar-Curry (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/26/25
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/25
AYES: Hurtado, Alvarado-Gil, Cortese, McNerney, Padilla

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/5/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Child nutrition: federal programs: funding cuts

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution calls on the state's representatives in Congress to continue to support investments in the federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program and would call on the President of the United States to work with Congress to support family farmers who produce fresh, locally-sourced food for school meals.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law establishes the Agricultural Marketing Services Local Food for Schools and Child Care program (LFSCC) under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA awards funds to states for food assistance purchases of domestic local foods for distribution to schools and child care institutions. The LFSCC program, among other things, helps states address supply chain disruptions and support local and regional food systems.

This resolution calls on the California Congressional Delegation to continue to support investments in the LFSCC program and work with President Trump and congress to support family farmers who produce fresh, locally-sourced food for school meals.

Background

In December, 2021, LFSCC was part of several COVID relief programs and provided $200 million in non-competitive grant funding to state agencies through cooperative agreements for the purchase of local, unprocessed or minimally processed foods from farmers, ranchers, and small businesses to distribute to schools that participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs.

In October, 2024, USDA announced it would provide $660 million for LFSCC to continue providing these services and add childcare. However, in March 2025, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service terminated this second round of funding with a 60-day notice that cooperative agreements would be ended because the program "no longer effectuates agency priorities."

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/1/25)

California School Boards Association
California School Employees Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/1/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

> "AJR 6 calls on the Trump Administration to restore funding for the Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program. LFSCC provides healthy, locally sourced meals to students while supporting small farmers and food producers. School meal programs play a vital role in ensuring California schoolchildren receive the nutrition needed to thrive academically and physically. Additionally, the LFSCC program strengthens local economies by creating opportunities for California's farmers, their workers, and California's agricultural industry as a whole. Cutting this funding threatens students' well-being, weakens local food systems, and could cause California to lose over $150 million in economic impact. Restoring these investments is essential to protecting California's most vulnerable children, supporting family farmers, and maintaining a strong California economy. Our Congressional Delegation and the Trump Administration should do everything possible to prevent the damage from cutting this program."

The California School Employees Association wrote in support of the resolution stating:

> "The LFSCC program provides federal funding to school food authorities to help increase local food purchases in schools and expand economic opportunities for local farmers and ranchers. The California Department of Education has received over $23 million through this program and distributed that money to schools to purchase local foods. Eliminating this program will hurt both kids and small family farmers, forcing school food authorities to spend limited nutrition funds on cheaper alternatives that are less likely to be locally sourced."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/5/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Ellis

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
7/1/25 16:32:15

****** END ******

THIRD READING

Bill No: AJR 31
Author: Bryan (D), Bonta (D), Elhawary (D), Gipson (D), Jackson (D), McKinnor (D), Ransom (D), Sharp-Collins (D) and Wilson (D), et al.
Introduced: 5/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 4-1, 6/30/26
AYES: Wiener, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg
NOES: Choi

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-11, 5/14/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Restoration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

SOURCE: California Legislative Black Caucus

DIGEST: This resolution urges Congress to enact legislation to restore and strengthen the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Provides, pursuant to the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, that "[t]he right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The 15th Amendment authorizes Congress to enact legislation to enforce its provisions.

2) Prohibits, pursuant to Section 2 of the VRA, among other provisions, any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure" from being imposed by any "state or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." Section 5 of the VRA

requires certain states and covered jurisdictions to receive approval for any changes to law and practices affecting voting practices and procedures.

This resolution:

1) Calls upon Congress to act with all deliberate speed to enact legislation to restore and strengthen the full protections of the VRA.

2) Urges Congress to restore a functional preclearance regime, including a modernized coverage formula grounded in contemporary evidence of discrimination, ensuring that jurisdictions with a record of discriminatory practices must obtain federal approval before implementing voting changes.

3) Urges Congress to codify a robust, results-based standard under Section 2 of the VRA to explicitly reject the intent-focused narrowing of the VRA created by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* and provide meaningful remedies to prevent and redress racial vote dilution and discriminatory districting.

4) Calls on Congress to honor the bipartisan legacy of the VRA by ensuring its protections remain fully effective in the face of contemporary threats.

5) Urges the President to sign such legislation promptly upon its passage.

Background

In 1965, Congress determined that state officials were failing to comply with the provisions of the 15th Amendment. As a result, Congress passed and President Johnson signed the VRA. The VRA, among other provisions, prohibits any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure" from being imposed by any "[s]tate or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color."

Section 2 of the VRA is a nationwide prohibition against voting practices and procedures, including redistricting plans and at-large election systems, poll worker hiring, and voting registration procedures, that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. In *Louisiana v. Callais*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in April 2026 that Louisiana's congressional map was unconstitutional because race was used prominently used in its design. The Court held that complying with Section 2 of the VRA did not justify race-based redistricting unless it met strict constitutional limits. The ramifications of this

decision are not fully known, but other states are evaluating how this decision affects a jurisdiction's current boundaries.

Section 2 also allowed the U.S. Attorney General or affected private citizens to bring lawsuits in federal court to challenge practices that may violate the VRA. In 2021, in *Brnovich v. DNC*, the U.S. Supreme Court made it more difficult to bring voter suppression claims through the judicial process.

Section 4 of the VRA set the criteria for determining whether a jurisdiction is covered under certain provisions of the VRA, including the requirement for review of changes affecting voting under Section 5.

Section 5 of the VRA requires certain states and covered jurisdictions to receive approval for any changes to law and practices affecting voting from the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia to ensure the changes do not have the purpose or effect of "denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color." This is also known as a "preclearance" requirement.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013, held that a coverage formula in Section 4 of the VRA is unconstitutional and can no longer be used as a basis for subjecting jurisdictions to preclearance under Section 5 of the VRA. The Court did not directly strike down Section 5, which contains the preclearance requirements, but without Section 4, no jurisdiction will be subject to Section 5 preclearance unless Congress enacts a new coverage formula.

Comments

Author's Statement. The house is on fire. The systems that were erected to protect minority representation after the unconscionable actions of a nation that violently subjugated its Black citizens, are now again being used as an apparatus of oppression, repression and suppression. The Constitution is not self-executing. A brief journey into the electoral history of much of the nation shows that violence and terror have gone hand in hand with regulatory and legislative restrictions to crush the dreams and steal the future of Black communities by ensuring their voices were ignored and their votes did not count.

If our voice is our power, and voting is the primary expression of that power, the protections of access to the ballot box are the foundations on which we secure a just and fair democratic society.

We have seen these hurdles before—poll taxes, literacy tests, and moral character exams—all facially race-neutral, but all with the clear intent and effect of

suppressing the Black vote. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere: California must not be silent. We are more than three-fifths of a human. We are not going back.

Related/prior legislation

SB 1164 (Cervantes) of 2026, among other provisions, repeals and replaces the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 with a state voting rights act that seeks to protect voters from voter suppression and vote dilution. The bill also creates a procedure for preclearance based off of the federal VRA.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 7/1/26)

California Legislative Black Caucus (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 7/1/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 60-11, 5/14/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Chen, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Castillo, Davies, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
7/1/26 16:55:29

****** END ******