



CASCI Legislative Update (2026)

DANA CRUZ | Governmental Affairs Attorney, Judicial Council

OVERVIEW

Legislative Process

How Court Investigators Can Participate

Judicial Council Resources

New Laws

New Legislation



LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

THREE BRANCHES



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



“THE LEGISLATIVE POWER OF THIS STATE IS VESTED IN THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE WHICH CONSISTS OF THE **SENATE AND ASSEMBLY**, BUT THE PEOPLE RESERVE TO THEMSELVES THE POWERS OF INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.”

-ART IV

STATE LEGISLATURE



Lower House

80 members

2 year terms

12 years total

Leader: Speaker,

Majority and Minority Leader

STATE LEGISLATURE



Upper House

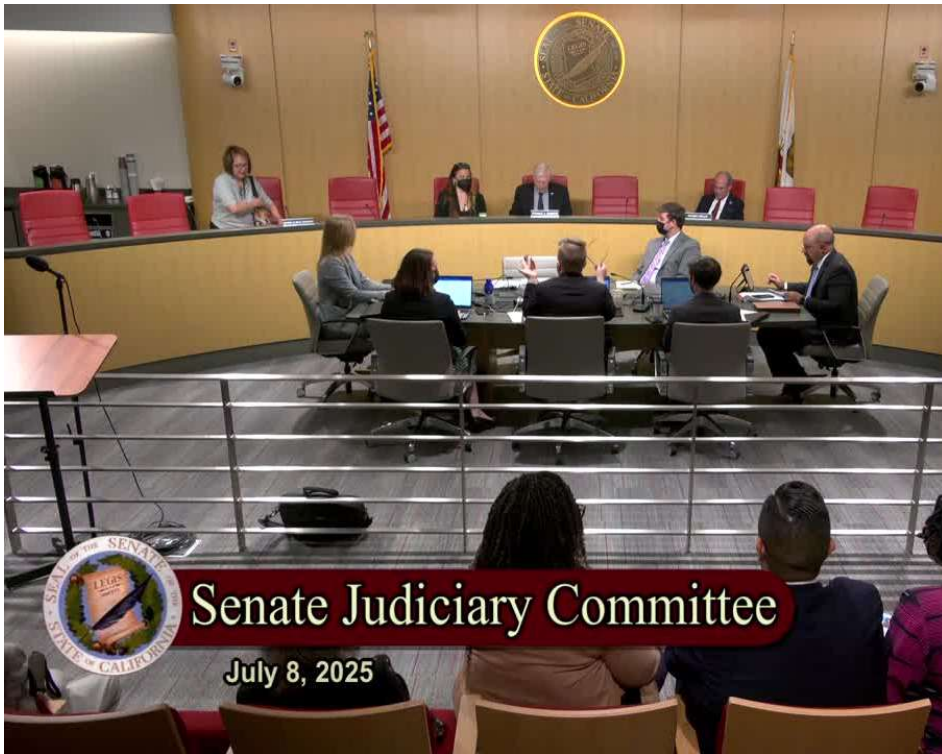
40 members

4 year terms

12 years total

Officers: President pro Tempore,
Majority and Minority leaders

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES



Types

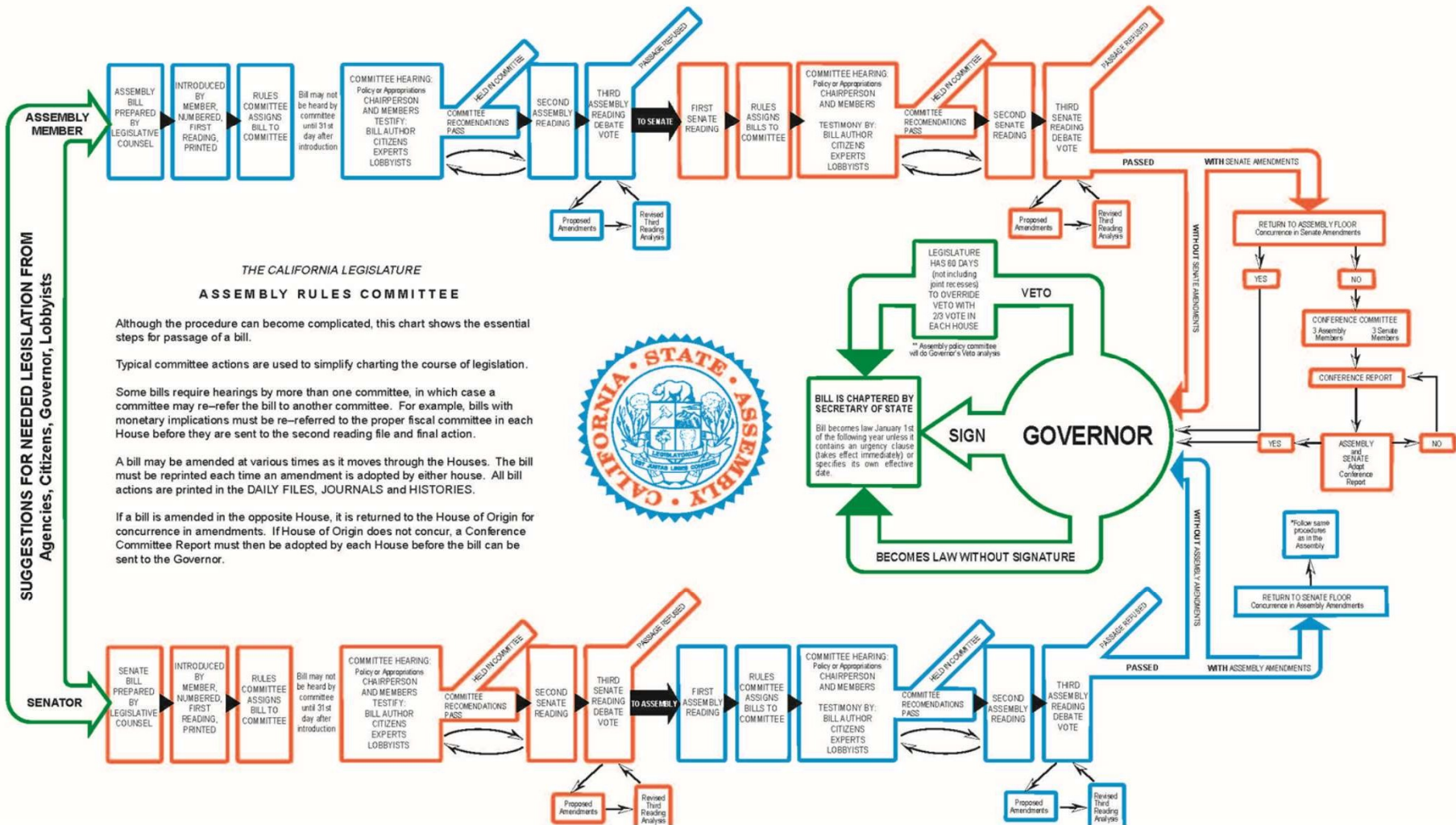
- Standing Committees
- Joint Committees
- Select Committees

Analyses

- Hold hearings
- Public testimony
- Author bills (omnibus)

THE LIFE CYCLE OF LEGISLATION

From Idea into Law



SUGGESTIONS FOR NEEDED LEGISLATION FROM Agencies, Citizens, Governor, Lobbyists

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE

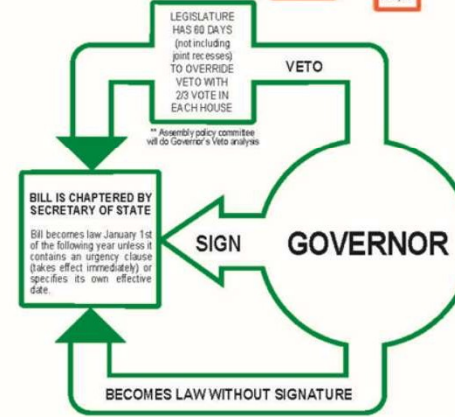
Although the procedure can become complicated, this chart shows the essential steps for passage of a bill.

Typical committee actions are used to simplify charting the course of legislation.

Some bills require hearings by more than one committee, in which case a committee may re-refer the bill to another committee. For example, bills with monetary implications must be re-referred to the proper fiscal committee in each House before they are sent to the second reading file and final action.

A bill may be amended at various times as it moves through the Houses. The bill must be reprinted each time an amendment is adopted by either house. All bill actions are printed in the DAILY FILES, JOURNALS and HISTORIES.

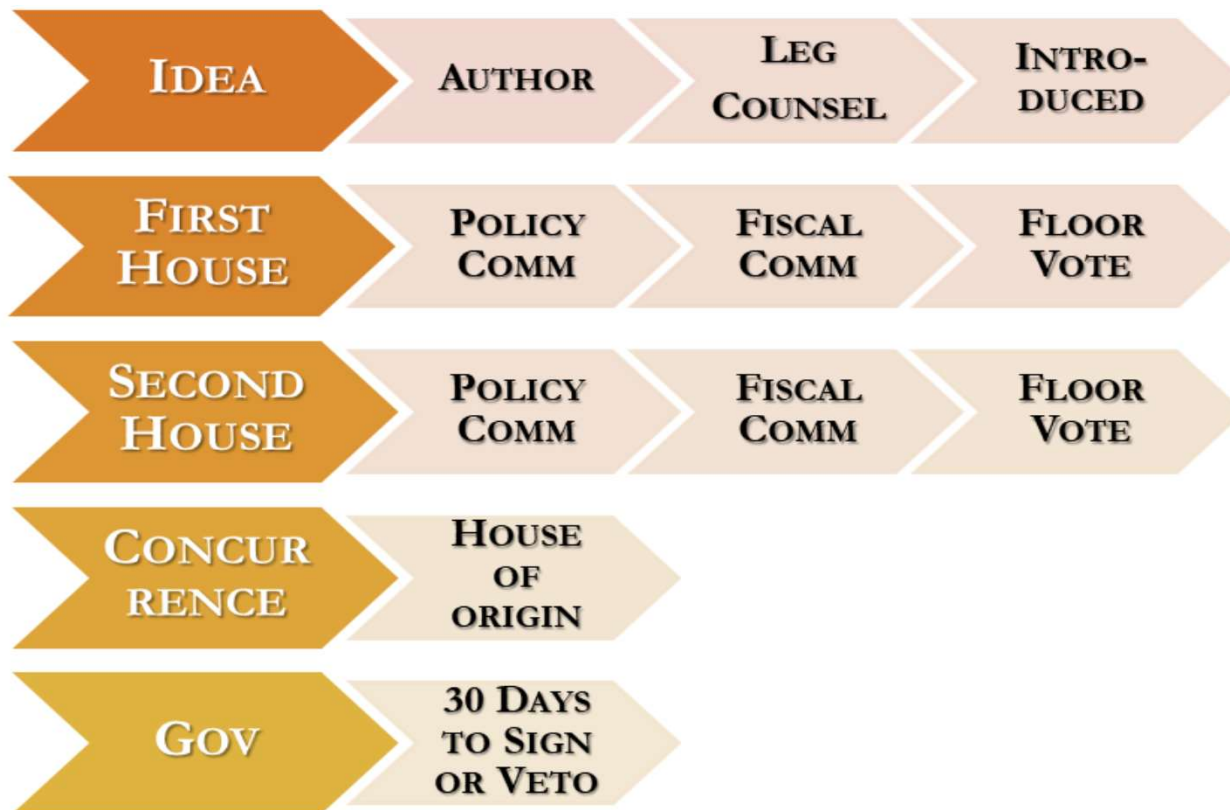
If a bill is amended in the opposite House, it is returned to the House of Origin for concurrence in amendments. If House of Origin does not concur, a Conference Committee Report must then be adopted by each House before the bill can be sent to the Governor.



* Assembly policy committee will do Governor's Veto analysis

BILL IS CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE
Bill becomes law January 1st of the following year unless it contains an urgency clause (takes effect immediately) or specifies its own effective date.

LEGISLATIVE CYCLE



Look out:

- urgency clause
- fiscal impact
- appropriation
- vote thresholds
- political sensitivities

TYPES OF LEGISLATION

Assembly Bill vs. Senate Bill

- Author
- Sponsor

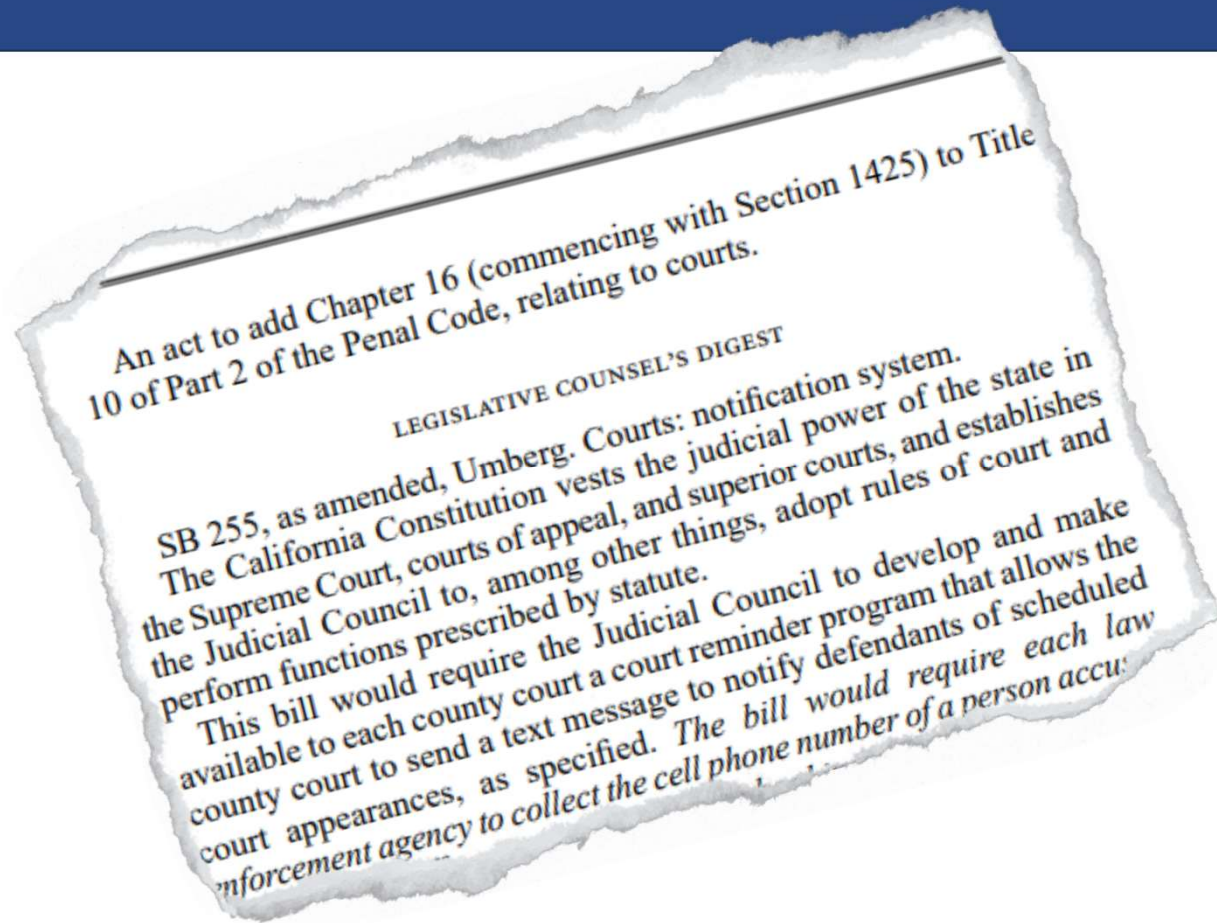
Committee Bills

- Omnibus bills

Budget

- Budget Act
- Trailer Bills
- Budget Bill Juniors

SEE ALSO Resolutions



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Two-year sessions

- Odd year – First year
- Even year – Second year

Two-year process

- Dead vs Two-Year Bills





HOW TO PARTICIPATE

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Monitor bills



California
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Mon, Feb 9, 2026

FLOOR SCHEDULE

[ASSEMBLY FLOOR SESSION](#)

STATE CAPITOL 1:00 PM

[SENATE FLOOR SESSION](#)

STATE CAPITOL 2:00 PM

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

[ASM RULES](#)

10 minutes prior to Session

WELCOME

Welcome to the California Legislative Information website!

We are pleased to announce a new tracking feature that will notify you when a bill that proposes changes to the Political Reform Act is published to the California Legislative Information website pursuant to section 81012.5 of the Government Code. The feature will also subscribe you to the bill. Once subscribed, email notifications will be sent as the Political Reform Act bill moves through the legislative process. Visit the site's FAQ page for additional information.

Measures prior to 1999 can still be found at <http://leginfo.ca.gov> which will remain as an archive for legislative information.

To access a complete listing of California Law Codes and Bill Search features, click the

WHERE DO *YOU* FIT IN?

Monitor bills

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>



WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Monitor bills



CALIFORNIA COURTS
Judicial Branch of California

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Governmental Affairs

On behalf of the judicial branch, the Judicial Council's Governmental Affairs represents and advocates for the Judicial Council on legislative, policy, and budget matters. The office also works extensively on the judicial branch budget and related matters, meeting with legislators, committees, committee and leadership staff, as well as staff for the Governor and the state Department of Finance.

CONTACT INFO

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600
Sacramento, California 95814-4717
Tel: 916-323-3121

[Governmental Affairs Advocacy Contacts Fact Sheet](#)

Court-Related Legislation

Search for active [court-related legislation](#), [view published letters and positions](#) the Judicial Council has taken on legislation, or consult annual

Liaison & Outreach Activities

Learn about governmental affairs [liaison and outreach programs](#):

- Day on the Bench

WHERE DO *YOU* FIT IN?

Monitor bills

www.courts.ca.gov


<https://courts.ca.gov/policy-administration/governmental-affairs/court-related-legislation>



WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Monitor bills

Assigned Subject area or Program	Assigned Subject area or Program
Collections ↗	Mental Health ↗
Contracts/Procurement ↗	Miscellaneous ↗
Court Interpreters ↗	Other Employee/Employer Issues ↗
Court Operations ↗	Probate ↗
Court Records ↗	Redistricting ↗
Court Reporters ↗	Small Claims ↗



WHERE DO *YOU* FIT IN?

Advocate





JUDICIAL COUNCIL RESOURCES

WHO WE ARE

Judicial Council's Governmental Affairs represents and advocates for the Judicial Council on legislative, policy, and budget matters.

- Monitor court-related legislation
- Public resources
 - Active legislation by category
 - Annual Summary of Legislation (*New Laws*) since 2005

WHO WE ARE (RESOURCES)

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court | Courts of Appeal | Superior Courts | Judicial Council



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Liaison & Outreach Activities

Learn about governmental affairs [liaison and outreach programs](#):

- Day on the Bench
- Liaison Program
- Bench-Bar Coalition
- Judicial Administration Fellowship Program



www.courts.ca.gov

WHO WE ARE (RESOURCES)

2024 Court-Related Legislation

Governmental Affairs

Court-Related Legislation

Past Legislation

Judicial Council Legislative
Position Letters & Fiscal
Impact Statements

Assembly Bill 1208

Outreach Activities

About Governmental Affairs

In this section:

- [Active Legislation](#)
- [Legislative Status Charts/Judicial Council Positions](#)
- [Legislative Summaries](#)
- [Bills Affecting Appellate Courts](#)
- [Legislative Policy Summary](#)
- [Governmental Affairs Advocacy C](#)

[Expand all](#) [Close all](#)

Active Legislation

Legislative Status Charts

2024 Summary of Court-Related Legislation

The [2024 Summary of Court-Related Legislation](#) has brief descriptions of new laws, arranged according to subject matter, that affect the courts or that are of general interest to the judicial branch. The summary includes a statement for each new or amended statute that is determined to impact court operations and procedures, as well as a table summarizing new laws that create or expand crimes. Access the page numbers of specific bill summaries using an index at the back of the document.

[Current and prior-year summaries can be accessed below.](#)



2025 New Laws



NEW LAWS

NEW LAWS IN 2025

AB 495 (RODRIGUEZ): **Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025**

Modifies the definition of “relative,” for purposes of the Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit, to mean an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, or the spouse.



NEW LEGISLATION

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

AB 1824 (RAMOS): Indian children: guardianship or conservatorship proceedings

Codifies provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) into the Probate Code to ensure consistent application of ICWA requirements in guardianship and conservatorship proceedings involving Indian children.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

AB 1689 (QUIRK-SILVA): Juvenile courts: temporary probate guardianship

Establishes procedures for the juvenile court, when it makes specified findings, to terminate temporary guardianships appointed in a probate court.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

AB 2090 (MACEDO): Guardianships and conservatorships: accounting exemptions

Increases the court-ordered exemption from accounting by a guardian or conservator over an estate with a total net value of less than \$30,000 and monthly income of the estate less than \$3,200.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

AB 1939 (FLORA): Professional Fiduciaries: corporate practice

Beginning January 1, 2028, authorizes licensed fiduciaries to form professional fiduciary professional corporations under the Professional Fiduciaries Act (Fiduciaries Act).

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

SB 1221 (STERN): Lanterman-Petris-Short Act: conservatorships

Makes various changes to the process for Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) conservatorships.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

SB 1401 (STERN): Criminal procedure: competence to stand trial

Among other things, makes related changes to MIST and FIST referrals and time frames and permits a court to refer a misdemeanor IST defendant to a county conservatorship investigator for possible conservatorship proceedings if in its opinion the defendant appears gravely disabled.

CONTACT US

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916-323-3121

THANK YOU





NEW LEGISLATION IN 2025

AB 1025 (PELLERIN): **Standby Guardianships**

Establish the Standby Caretaker Act to allow a custodial parent to nominate another adult to assume care and responsibility of their child in the event that the parent is unavailable to provide care.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

SB 989 (BLAKESPEAR): Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

Permits a first responder who requested the county behavioral health agency to file a CARE petition to seek a court order if the agency does not investigate or file a petition.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

SB 1016 (BLAKESPEAR): Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program and court-ordered evaluations

Authorizes a CARE Act petitioner to request the court order a Lanterman-Petris-Short Act mental health evaluation if the petitioner believes that the person may not be willing or able to participate in the CARE process due to the severity of their mental disorder.

NEW LEGISLATION IN 2026

AB 2478 (SCHULTZ): Kinship family approval

Requires Department of Social Services to adopt a kinship family approval process. Requires counties to ensure relatives, nonrelative extended family members, and extended family members of an Indian child are provided information regarding approval processes and the option to choose between the kinship approval process, the resource family approval process, and in the case of an Indian child, a tribally approved home.