

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 689 (Petrie-Norris)
As Amended July 13, 2021
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide financial and technical assistance to local domestic violence centers in implementing 24-hour crisis communication systems that include 24-hour phone services and may also include other communication methods offered on a 24-hour or intermittent basis, such as text messaging or computer chat.

Senate Amendments

Double join this bill with AB 673 (Salas) of the current legislative session to avoid chaptering out issues.

COMMENTS

Domestic Violence Increase During COVID-19: The stay at home orders issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has created an environment for increased domestic violence cases. More than 10 million Americans experience domestic violence, and experts project that isolation to homes, job loss, and overall stress associated with the pandemic will cause that number to increase¹. National domestic violence hotlines have reported a spike in calls since March 2020 when stay at home orders began being enforced. Police statistics reveal that in the city of Los Angeles, as of March 21, aggravated assault crimes, including those of domestic violence, have increased more than 4 percent. Many police stations have closed their reception area in response to the spread of COVID, forcing victims to contact departments via phone for restraining and emergency orders. However many domestic violence shelters have remained open during this time, accepting families and creating quarantine areas to protect those most in need. Domestic violence centers working with survivors are staying connected through increased tele-advocacy and remote intake. As domestic violence centers continue working and implementing social distancing protocols during this pandemic, it is greatly impacting their revenue and ability to raise funds. Cities across California are extending their stay at home orders and social distancing protocols, therefore the suspension of match requirements will allow domestic violence to continue channeling their resources where they are most needed.

According to the Author

"This bill modernizes California code to ensure that funding for and reporting about vital crisis communication services offered by Domestic Violence service provider include new text-based technology like computer chat lines and phone texting. By modernizing the requirements to include text-based optional services, Domestic Violence service providers will be better equipped to respond victims of domestic violence who may not feel safe or be able to call a traditional phone-based hotline. Additionally, the state will be better able to track and collect more accurate data about domestic abuse."

¹ <https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/what-dv-orgs-need-to-know-coronavirus>

Arguments in Support

According to WEAVE, "Law enforcement agencies across California field an average of 457 domestic violence calls a day. For many victims, calling law enforcement is not the safest or most helpful option, so they turn to other resources like 24/7 crisis response services from organizations like WEAVE. Text-based services like computer chat and secure text messaging offer alternative ways for victims to reach out for support, even when a phone call may not be safe. However these services can be costly and technically complex; service providers need resources and assistance to deploy these tools.

"By modernizing the statutory requirements to include text based optional communication services, Domestic Violence Service providers will be eligible for technical and financial support for these offerings through CalOES and will be able to offer victims more options for engagement that suit the victim's need and preferences. These additional services may also help the state to better track and collect more accurate data about domestic violence."

Arguments in Opposition

None.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

VOTES:**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-0**

YES: Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Bauer-Kahan, Quirk, Santiago, Seyarto, Wicks, Lee

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 16-0-0

YES: Lorena Gonzalez, Bigelow, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Megan Dahle, Davies, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, Holden, Akilah Weber, Berman

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0-3

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Daly, Davies, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon
ABS, ABST OR NV: Cervantes, Gallagher, Medina

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Melendez, Min, Newman, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk
ABS, ABST OR NV: Umberg

UPDATED

VERSION: July 13, 2021

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