

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1069 (Bains)

As Amended September 5, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires as part of disaster planning and response, an area agency on aging (AAA), independent living center (ILC), or an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program have access to an emergency shelter in order to ensure older adults and persons with disabilities receive continuous services and necessary support.

**Senate Amendments**

Clarifies who initiates the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the AAA, ILC or ADRC during an active event. Specifically, a representative of the county welfare director, in coordination with the lead local agency designated with sheltering support duties under the State Emergency Plan Emergency Support Functions shall initiate the MOU. Amendments included ILCs and also added a coauthor.

**COMMENTS**

*Background:* California's aging population is growing faster than any other age group. By 2030, over 25% of the population in California will be 60 and older.<sup>1</sup>

California is projected to be one of the fastest growing States in the nation in total population. In 2016, California comprised 12% of the nation's population<sup>2</sup> and is expected to grow 30% by the year 2060 (an increase of 11.7 million people).<sup>3</sup> In California, the population aged 60 years and over is expected to grow more than three times as fast as the total population and this growth will vary by region.

A report the State Auditor from 2019, "California Is Not Adequately Prepared to Protect Its Most Vulnerable Residents From Natural Disasters"<sup>4</sup> sites the three counties audited had not met the needs of vulnerable populations in their emergency planning. As California recovers from the most devastating fires in our history, we know the data shows older adults and people with disabilities perish in higher numbers during disasters.

As floods, earthquakes and wildfires, as well as other natural disasters continue to plague California from coasts to deserts and north to south, we continue to identify how well we provide services to older adults.

In recent years, California has experienced an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires, and experts project that these events will continue to occur more frequently.<sup>5</sup> Consequently, the

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<sup>1</sup> Projections | Department of Finance (ca.gov)

<sup>2</sup> <https://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections>

<sup>4</sup> <https://information.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2019-103.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>

state will likely need to protect its residents more often and from more dangerous natural disasters in the future than it has in the past.

*State Emergency Plan (SEP)*: The SEP is the primary plan for the California Emergency Support Functions (CA-ESFs). Emergency support functions are intended to provide a planning framework for local, tribal, state, and federal governments, as well as the private sector. This framework enables these entities to work together to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of emergencies regardless of the cause, size, location, or complexity.

The CA-ESF 6 Mass Care and Shelter (MCS) is one of these annexes. The stakeholders participating in CA-ESF 6 provide coordination, collaboration, and resource identification for MCS activities. This function supports the local and state emergency management capabilities and minimizes the humanitarian impact of disasters and other emergencies through the four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery).

Operational details of how the CA-ESF 6 would function before, during, and after an emergency activation are done through DSS. All partners in the CA-ESF 6 provide coordinated assistance during all phases of emergency management. MCS coordination includes, but is not limited to:

- 1) Mass feeding services.
- 2) Human services at congregate and non-congregate shelters.
- 3) Support for distribution of humanitarian supplies.
- 4) Reunification services.
- 5) Support for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and others with access and functional needs (AFN).
- 6) Sheltering support.

As part of its response-support role, in coordination with other CA-ESFs and the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) within CalOES, the CA-ESF 6 will support the mass care community in addressing individuals with disabilities, older adults, and others with AFN.

No two disasters are ever the same; yet, virtually all incidents disproportionately affect individuals with AFN (i.e. people with disabilities, older adults, children, limited English proficiency, and transportation disadvantaged). Understanding this harsh reality, in 2008 California established OAFN within the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The purpose of OAFN is to identify the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access or functional needs before, during, and after disasters and to integrate them into the State's emergency management systems.

#### **According to the Author**

"As a physician, I have seen the needs of those in shelters who are struggling to meet their basic health needs. Allowing service providers into evacuation shelters enables trusted partners to provide continuity of care and will likely enfold more of the vulnerable communities toward services. This is even more important underserved areas, who are already stretched thin with services for older adults and people with disabilities."

### Arguments in Support

California Association for Area Agencies on Aging, the sponsor of the bill, writes "California continues to face increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters, disproportionately affecting older adults and people with disabilities. AAAs and ADRCs provide essential services that need to continue and are crucial during emergencies, especially for individuals displaced by these disasters. Ensuring AAAs and ADRCs have direct access to emergency shelters will enable impacted individuals to maintain uninterrupted access to vital programs and services, significantly enhancing their recovery outcomes. Additionally, it is essential that AAAs and ADRCs maintain close coordination and collaborative relationships with local emergency management leaders. Such partnerships ensure older adults continue receiving ongoing AAA services and that older adults entering emergency shelters are informed and connected to available AAA resources. This coordination allows AAAs and ADRCs to identify and respond to specific access, medication, mobility, and support needs that emergency shelters may not be equipped or need support to handle. AB 1069 is a necessary step to safeguard older adults and people with disabilities during emergencies by providing consistent and coordinated care through trusted community providers."

### Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

## FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill was passed by the Senate Committee on Appropriations pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.

## VOTES:

### ASM AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE: 6-0-1

**YES:** Bains, Ellis, Ahrens, Jeff Gonzalez, Blanca Rubio, Sharp-Collins

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Ávila Farías

### ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 7-0-0

**YES:** Ransom, Hadwick, Arambula, Bains, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

### ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

### ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-1

**YES:** 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, 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

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** McKinnor

**UPDATED**

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