
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1099 (Bryan) - Developmental services: initial intake: assessment

Version: April 22, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: July 14, 2025

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1099 would revise regional center intake and assessment processes.

Fiscal Impact:

- 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.

Background: California's 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.

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. The primary purpose of regional centers is to connect individuals with services in the community. Current law requires the DDS and the regional centers to annually collaborate to compile and report data in a uniform manner relating to purchase of service authorization, utilization, and expenditure by each regional center, as specified.

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- working day intake period. 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 or that the regional center is not initiating the assessment, it must provide notice to the individual requesting intake.

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, further developmental delays, or 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 diagnostic data and information, including tests and evaluations, contingent upon release of such information.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Provide that the initial intake may include a determination that the person is eligible or provisionally eligible for regional center services.
- Prohibit a decision not to provide the assessment from being based solely on either of the following:
 - The lack of documentation, including, but not limited to, school, medical, or court records, provided by the person requesting assistance or, if appropriate, by the person's parents, legal guardian or conservator, or authorized representative.
 - The age of the person when they received a diagnosis of a qualifying condition, as long as the qualifying condition originated before the person was 18 years of age, as determined through the assessment process.
- Require that for initial intakes involving a foster child who has not been determined to be eligible or provisionally eligible for regional center services by the end of the 15-working-day initial intake period, the regional center must conduct an assessment.
- Require that if assessment is needed, the assessment must be performed as soon as possible and in no event more than 60 days following initial intake when the client is a foster child.
- Impose additional requirements on regional centers regarding the assessment process, as specified.
- Require DDS to annually post on its internet website annual statewide data regarding intakes and assessments, by regional center, and on a statewide-aggregate basis, as specified.

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