

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1269 (Bryan)

As Amended September 2, 2025

2/3 vote. Urgency

**SUMMARY**

Requires county and city jails, within 24 hours, to notify all people covered by the medical release of information and next of kin form of the death of a person incarcerated in county or city jail.

**Senate Amendments**

Add in an urgency clause.

**COMMENTS**

*As passed by the Assembly:* This bill required county and city jails, within 24 hours, to notify all people covered by the medical release of information and next of kin form of the death of a person incarcerated in county or city jail.

**According to the Author**

"No family should have to wait days to find out if their loved one has been harmed or killed in law enforcement custody. Wakiesha's Law will finally bring parity across systems of incarceration and prioritize family notification."

**Arguments in Support**

According to the *Ella Baker Center for Human Rights*, "The Ella Baker Center supports Assemblymember Bryan's efforts to achieve medical transparency. County jails should not be able to leave families in the dark regarding their loved one's medical status. Uncertainty around a loved one's medical status or location status can cause undue stress on families and children. This uncertainty can have precipitating effects on families leading them disengage with work or other familial responsibilities, leading to additional financial ramifications on already impacted families.

"Family connection is essential for children whose loved ones are incarcerated. While the system should do more to preserve family connections, knowing where your loved one is, is the very baseline respect that families deserve. California has seen a growing increase in jail deaths, and families deserve transparency around the status of their loved one. Regardless of the reasons for medical release or change in status, we must treat families with humanity and extend the same courtesy we would expect in their shoes." (Citations omitted)

**Arguments in Opposition**

According to the *California State Sheriffs' Association*, "While we understand the desire to facilitate contact with loved ones when an incarcerated person becomes seriously ill, the bill leaves many open questions. The definition of a serious or critical medical condition may include a situation when an incarcerated person needs to receive "life-sustaining medical treatment." Does a patient receiving oxygen for chronic emphysema constitute life-sustaining medical treatment? Does an insulin-dependent diabetic patient hospitalized for edema qualify? We do not argue that these are serious conditions, but should statute mandate contact be facilitated within 24 hours?

"In addition to these questions and others, we are concerned that even technical non-compliance, like a phone call that comes 10 minutes after the 24-hour period has run, would subject a jail and the county to liability. For this reason, and those stated above, CSSA must oppose AB 1269."

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "Likely absorbable workload costs to cities and counties to make notifications for each in-custody death. Actual costs to each municipality will depend on the number of notifications that must be made each year. In recent years, the number of reported deaths in county jails has ranged between 150 and 215 statewide."

## **VOTES:**

### **ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 7-0-2**

**YES:** Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Lackey, Nguyen

### **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, 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

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo

## **UPDATED**

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