
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1376 (Bonta) - Wards: probation

Version: June 11, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 29, 2025

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 4 - 1

Mandate: No

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary:

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund), likely in the low millions, to adjudicate additional hearings required by this bill. Judicial Council indicates an estimated 10,000 individuals who would need the new evidentiary hearings required by this bill. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.
- Significant workload costs to county probation agencies (local funds, General Fund), likely in the millions to tens of millions annually. Chief Probation Officer's note that, based on staff time to prepare the report required by this bill (which will include gathering information and which may include additional parties such as family, mental health, restitution, school progress, etc.), and time spent in court for the hearings, the impacts of this bill are likely to be in the millions to tens of millions annually, as these hearings apply to all wards of the court. Probation would have to prepare for and attend the initial hearing, which sets a presumption for discharge, and likely multiple additional hearings. Based on current lengths of juvenile probation terms, per case, this could require probation to attend multiple hearings every six months. However, by encouraging earlier termination of probation, this bill could shorten supervision periods and reduce associated costs.
- It is not clear whether the county probation duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate or whether they may be subject to Proposition 30 (2012). Proposition 30 provides that legislation enacted after September 30, 2012, that has an overall effect of increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by realignment applies to local agencies only to the extent the state provides annual funding for the cost increase.

Author Amendments:

- Provide that a minor adjudged to be a ward of the court, as specified, shall not remain on probation for a period that exceeds twelve months, as specified.
- Provide that, if the court extends probation, the court shall hold noticed hearings for the ward not less than every six months, as specified.
- Clarify that these provisions do not preclude termination of probation before the end of twelve months.
- Provide that these provisions do not apply to a ward who is discharged from a secure youth treatment facility.

Committee Amendments: Allow courts to extend the probation period after a noticed hearing and upon proof by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the ward's and the public's best interest.

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