
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1487
Author: Addis (D) and Mark González (D), et al.
Amended: 9/5/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 9-2, 7/2/25

AYES: Menjivar, Durazo, Gonzalez, Limón, Padilla, Richardson, Rubio, Weber
Pierson, Wiener

NOES: Valladares, Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-15, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public health: the Two-Spirit, Transgender, Gender Nonconforming,
and Intersex Wellness and Equity Fund

SOURCE: The Translatin@ Coalition

DIGEST: This bill renames the Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex Wellness and Equity Fund as the Two-Spirit Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (2TGI) Wellness and Equity Fund and expands the availability of grant funds to 2TGI-serving organizations to provide 2TGI individuals workforce development training, immigrant and asylee resettlement and social integration programs, and transitional-age youth diversion programs.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/5/2025 add legislative intent language regarding the use of the term “two-spirit”, make a conforming change to another section of law to account for the name change in this program, add back in a definition of “TGI-serving organization” to account for other cross-references to this definition elsewhere in the code, and clarify that an organization serving tribal populations is

also eligible for funding if that organization applies in partnership with a 2TGI-serving organization.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to establish the Office of Health Equity (OHE) to achieve the highest level of health and mental health for all people, work collaboratively with the Health in All Policies Task Force, advise and assist other state departments in their mission to increase access to, and the quality of, culturally and linguistically competent health and mental health care and services, and improve the health status of all populations and places. [Health and Safety Code [HSC] §131019.5]
- 2) Requires OHE to administer the Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) Wellness and Equity Fund to fund grants to organizations serving people that identify as TGI, to create or fund TGI-specific housing programs and partnerships with hospitals, health care clinics, and other medical providers to provide TGI-focused health care and related education programs for health care providers. Requires such grants to go to TGI-serving organizations, which are defined as an organization with a mission statement that centers around serving TGI people, and where at least 65% of the organization's clients are TGI. [HSC §150900]
- 3) Defines the following terms:
 - a) "Transgender" means a broad and inclusive term for all gender identities different from the gender a person was assigned at birth;
 - b) "Gender nonconforming" means an inclusive term used to describe individuals who may experience a gender that is neither exclusively male nor female or is in between or beyond both of those genders, including, but not limited to, nonbinary, gender fluid, agender (or without gender), third gender, genderqueer, gender variant, Two-Spirit, Hijra, Kathoey, Mak nyah, Muxe, Waria, Māhū, and Fa'afafine;
 - c) "Intersex" means an umbrella term referring to people whose anatomy, hormones, or chromosomes fall outside the strict male and female binary;
 - d) "Health care" means medical, behavioral, and spiritual care; therapeutic arts programs; services related to substance use disorder or substance abuse; and supporting housing as a mechanism to support TGI-identified individuals in accessing social services; and,

- e) “TGI-serving organization” means either a public or nonprofit organization with a mission statement that centers around serving transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex people, and where at least 65 percent of the clients of the organization are TGI, or a nonprofit that serves as the fiscal agent or sponsor for such an organization. [HSC §150900]

This bill:

- 1) Renames the TGI Wellness and Equity Fund as the 2TGI Wellness and Equity Fund and updates references to TGI individuals and TGI-serving organizations to 2TGI individuals and 2TGI-serving organizations throughout.
- 2) Allows grants to 2TGI –serving organizations to also be available for the following purposes:
 - a) To provide workforce development training for 2TGI individuals;
 - b) To provide resettlement and social integration programs for 2TGI asylees and immigrants; and,
 - c) To provide diversion programs for, and outreach to, transitional-age 2TGI youth, defined as youth between 16 to 26 years of age, inclusive, who are transgender, gender nonconforming, intersex or Two-Spirit.
- 3) Clarifies that “health care” includes mental health services.
- 4) Defines “two-spirit” as a term referring to unique indigenous cultural roles that intersect with diverse sexual orientations and gender embodiments.
- 5) Authorizes CDPH to award grants under this fund to an organization that serves tribal populations if that organization applies in partnership with a 2TGI-serving organization.
- 6) Updates the 2TGI Wellness and Equity Fund name in another code section.
- 7) Makes legislative findings regarding the nature of the term “two-spirit” acknowledging the differences among different Native American and Indigenous tribes and stating the intent of the Legislature to respect and affirm these tribally-specific identities.

Background

The TGI Wellness and Equity Fund. The TGI Wellness and Equity Fund (previously named the Transgender Wellness and Equity (TWE) Fund) was established by AB 2218 (Santiago, Chapter 181, Statutes of 2020) to fund grants to create programs or fund existing programs focused on coordinating trans-inclusive health care for individuals who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex. Moneys in the TGI Wellness and Equity Fund may be used to fund grants for the following purposes: increasing the capacity of health care professionals to effectively provide TGI health care and institute TGI-inclusive best practices; facilitating therapeutic arts programs, such as dancing, painting, or writing; and, assisting, identifying, and referring TGI people to access supportive housing. The grants are also available to a hospital, health care clinic, or other medical provider that currently provides gender-affirming health care services, such as hormone therapy or gender reassignment surgery, to continue providing those services, or to a hospital, health care clinic, or other medical provider that will establish a program that offers gender-affirming health care services. Health care facilities applying for these grants must apply in partnership with a TGI-serving organization that will lead in establishing the program. AB 2521 (Santiago, Chapter 869, Statutes of 2022) renamed the fund and allowed TGI-serving organizations that have other non-profits as fiscal agents or sponsors for administrative purposes apply for funds. It also added the existing definitions of gender nonconforming and intersex to broaden the scope of the fund.

In 2022, approximately \$13 million in funds went into the TGI Wellness and Equity Fund, and according to information provided by CDPH, since 2023, just over \$10.1 million has been allocated. There have been four tracks of funding: two tracks for direct provision of gender affirming clinical services and/or navigation activities, one of which is focused on rural and tribal areas; and, two tracks of funding for programs that improve the provision of culturally responsive health care, therapeutic arts programs, and housing navigation services for TGI people, with one track for small community based organizations (organizations with budgets of less than \$1 million a year) and one track for large organizations.

Comments

According to the author of this bill:

As federal attacks escalate and attempts to erase people's identity intensify, California cannot be complacent. When policies or people waver, real commitment means standing firm and not shifting with the political winds.

This bill strengthens this critical fund to ensure 2TGI individuals receive the support they need to thrive, including access to health care, job training, and social integration programs.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 116 (Committee on Budget), the health budget trailer bill, contains a provisions funding the TGI Wellness and Equity Fund for individuals living with HIV and AIDS. AB 116 was enrolled on June 27, 2025.

AB 1487 (Santiago, Chapter 845, Statutes of 2023) established the TGI Wellness Reentry Fund in the state treasury.

AB 2521 (Santiago, Chapter 869, Statutes of 2022), renamed the TWE Fund into the TGI Wellness and Equity Fund and defines the terms transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex.

AB 2218 (Santiago, Chapter 181, Statutes of 2020) established the TWE Fund within OHE, for the purpose of funding grants to organizations serving people that identify as TGI, to create or fund TGI-specific housing programs and partnerships with hospitals, health care clinics, and other medical providers to provide TGI-focused health care, as defined, and related education programs for health care providers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, CDPH estimates General Fund costs of \$708,000 in 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29 for state operations related to the provision of scientific guidance in program development, grant management and oversight, technical assistance for grantees, program evaluation, and procurement and contracting activities. There is also unknown potential General Fund cost pressures to the extent that the expanded allowable uses of the fund would create additional demand for funding. The Budget Act of 2025 includes \$22.2 million for the TGI Fund in 2025-26.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/5/2025)

The Translatin@ Coalition (source)
American Civil Liberties California Action
American Association of University of Women of California
API Equality-LA
APLA Health

Asian Americans Advancing Justice California
 California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 California Coalition for Youth
 California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus
 California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
 California Primary Care Association
 Central Coast Coalition for Inclusive Schools
 County Behavioral Health Directors Association
 County Welfare Directors Association of California
 Easterseals Northern California
 End the Epidemics: Californians Mobilizing to End HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STIs,
 and Overdose
 Equality California
 Gender Alchemy
 Gender Justice LA
 GLIDE
 Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
 Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara
 Lavender Phoenix
 LGBTQ+ Inclusivity, Visibility, and Empowerment
 National Health Law Program
 Open Door Community Health Centers
 Parivar Bay Area
 Pride at the Pier
 The LGBT Asylum Project
 The San Diego LGBT Community Center
 Transgender Law Center
 Universidad Popular
 Four individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/5/2025)

California Family Council
 Californians United for Sex-Based Evidence in Policy and Law
 Women Are Real

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Sponsor, the Translatin@ Coalition write that this bill represents a meaningful step forward in addressing the systemic inequalities that 2TGI individuals face. Specifically, the Translatin@ Coalition supports workforce development training for 2TGI individuals, programs to support social integration and resettlement of 2TGI asylees and immigrants in

addition to the original purposes of the fund. The County Behavioral Health Director's Association write that the 2TGI community experiences more negative health, social, and economic outcomes than the general population. They point to the US Transgender Population Health Survey, which found that transgender individuals experience more poor mental and physical health days per month than cisgender individuals and data from the National Center for Transgender Equality showing that 1 in 3 transgender people have experienced homelessness.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: Californians United for Sex-Based Evidence in Policy and Law write in opposition to this bill stating that this bill is part of an effort to continue to enshrine the subjective concept of gender identity into law. They state that the bill lacks a way to measure impact or practical outcomes and that the inclusion of the term "two-spirit" is particularly problematic as the term is not being used as originally intended among indigenous communities. Opponents Women Are Real say the fund goes beyond public health purposes and has no oversight.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-15, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Bennett, Chen, Davies, Wallis

Prepared by: Jen Flory / HEALTH / (916) 651-4111
9/8/25 21:46:07

**** END ****