

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1487 (Addis and Mark González)

As Amended September 5, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Renames the Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) as the Two-Spirit (2TGI) Wellness and Equity Fund, expands the purpose for which grants can be awarded from the 2TGI Fund, and expands the requirements for grant fund availability for 2TGI individuals to include providing workforce development training, resettlement and social integration programs for asylees and immigrants, and for diversion programs for, and outreach to, transitional age 2TGI youth. Expands the definition of "health care" for purposes of the 2TGI Fund and the grants from the 2TGI fund. Defines "Two-Spirit" as a term referring to unique indigenous cultural roles that intersect with diverse sexual orientations and gender embodiments.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Define "transitional-age 2TGI youth" to mean youth between 16 to 26 years of age, inclusive, who are transgender, gender nonconforming, intersex, or Two-Spirit.
- 2) Define a "2TGI-serving organization" to mean a TGI-serving organization as defined in existing law that also applies to Two-Spirit people, as follows:
 - a) The public or nonprofit organization's mission statement centers around serving Two-Spirit, transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex people, or any combination thereof, and at least 65% of the clients of the organization are 2TGI; and,
 - b) The nonprofit described in existing law that serves as the fiscal agent or sponsor for an organization described in a) above, and that follows the existing law provisions on pass through of funding requirements and the ability to charge a reasonable or industry standard fee for administrative costs of not more than 16%.
- 3) Expand the purpose of the grants available to 2TGI serving organizations for the purpose of increasing the capacity of health care professionals to effectively provide 2TGI health and institute 2TGI-inclusive best practices from the Assembly-approved version of the purpose of the grants that "includes cultural competency training" to instead be for the purpose of grants that "includes, but it not limited, cultural responsiveness training."
- 4) Expand eligibility for grant funding to include an organization that serves tribal populations if that organizations applies in partnership with a 2TGI-serving organization.
- 5) Clarify the definition of "health care" includes behavioral "health" and clarify the definition of "health care" means "any" of the existing law definitions as expanded by this bill, rather than "all" of those definitions.
- 6) Make legislative findings and declarations regarding the history, identity and term "Two-Spirit" and states legislative intent to honor, respect and affirm the history, cultural significance and sovereignty of Two-Spirit and tribally specific identifies by ensuring that state policy and law reflect these truths, promote cultural understanding and protect the

dignity of all Indigenous peoples, including those live and organize under the Two-Spirit umbrella.

COMMENTS

AB 2218 (Santiago), Chapter 181, Statutes of 2020, established the now-named TGI Fund 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, and to provide TGI-focused health care, and related education programs for health care providers. In 2022, AB 2521 (Santiago), Chapter 869, Statutes of 2022, renamed the fund the TGI Fund.

The Williams Institute at the University of California Los Angeles School of Law (which conducts independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy) estimates over 150,000 adults and 49,000 youth (ages 13 to 17) identify as transgender in California. Data from the US Transgender Population Health Survey indicates that transgender individuals experience more poor mental and physical health days per month than cisgender individuals. Studies have also shown that the prevalence of suicidal thoughts and attempts among transgender adults is significantly higher than that of the general population.

Among transgender individuals, 28.2% and 31.2% reported hazardous drinking and problematic drug use, respectively; 44.4% reported recent suicidal ideation, 6.9% reported a recent suicide attempt, and 21.4% reported recent non-suicidal self-injury. In their lifetime, 81.3% of transgender respondents had suicidal ideation, 42% had attempted suicide, and 56% reported non-suicidal self-injury. Most had utilized formal mental health care and 25.5% had sought informal mental health support. In addition, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality, one in three transgender people has experienced homelessness.

A 2022 report titled *"Early Insights: A Report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey"* (USTS) stated early one-quarter of respondents (24%) did not see a doctor when they needed to in the last 12 months due to fear of mistreatment. Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents experienced serious psychological distress in the last 30 days, 79% of respondents saw a doctor or health care provider within the last 12 months, and 9% saw a provider between one and two years ago. Of those who saw a health care provider within the last 12 months, nearly one-half (48%) reported having at least one negative experience because they were transgender, such as being refused health care, being mis-gendered, having a provider use harsh or abusive language when treating them, or having a provider be physically rough or abusive when treating them.

More than one-third (34%) of respondents were experiencing poverty. The unemployment rate among USTS respondents was 18%. More than one in ten (11%) respondents who had ever held a job said they had been fired, forced to resign, lost the job, or been laid off because of their gender identity or expression. Nearly one-third (30%) of respondents had experienced homelessness in their lifetime.

According to the Author

As federal attacks escalate and attempts to erase people's identity intensify, California cannot be complacent. The author states that, 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 Two-Spirit, Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Intersex individuals receive the

support they need to thrive, including access to health care, job training, and social integration programs.

Arguments in Support

This bill is sponsored by TransLatin@ Coalition and other organizations committed to supporting marginalized communities' rights and well-being. Supporters write the expansion of the grant programs contained in this bill are critical in ensuring that 2TGI people receive the holistic support they need, from health care to housing to workforce training, to successfully reintegrate into society. Supporters argue this legislation represents a meaningful step forward in addressing the systemic inequalities that 2TGI individuals face. Supporters conclude that this bill will help ensure that 2TGI people have access to the resources and services they need to rebuild their lives and thrive in society.

Arguments in Opposition

Californians United for Sex-Based Evidence in Policy and Law (CAUSE) write in opposition that this bill is an expansion of an already bloated and unaccountable fund. CAUSE argues this fund has distributed money to organizations with questionable financial histories. CAUSE states the category represented by the words "Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming" is one into which anyone can self-identify. CAUSE argues intersex has been coopted from real people enduring real and serious physical challenges, to become just another category into which anyone can simply claim to belong, without evidence, and imparting funds to individuals or groups based on their claimed but unproven or unprovable "identity" is in itself a fraud perpetuated by the State of California on taxpayers.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) estimates General Fund (GF) 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 GF 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.

VOTES:

ASM HEALTH: 12-3-1

YES: Bonta, Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Rogers, Carrillo, Mark González, Krell, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Stefani

NO: Flora, Patterson, Sanchez

ABS, ABST OR NV: Chen

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-3-1

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

NO: Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-15-5

YES: 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

NO: Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Bennett, Chen, Davies, Wallis

UPDATED

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