

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1575 (Arambula) – As Amended March 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Human Services Vote: 5 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill modifies the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act to expand the definition of “in-home respite services” to include the provision of that care and supervision in the client’s local community and authorizes services to be designed to attend to the client’s appropriate community integration and socialization that ordinarily would be performed by family members.

The bill also replaces the term “consumer” with “person eligible for regional center services” throughout the act.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) estimates ongoing General Fund costs of an unknown but significant amount, likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on the volume of requests from families and utilization. DDS indicates the addition of community integration and socialization as respite goals would constitute a new service.
- 2) DDS anticipates minor and absorbable costs for any updates associated with replacing “consumer” with “person eligible for regional center services throughout the Lanterman Act and removing gendered language.

According to the Legislative Analyst’s Office, the General Fund faces a structural deficit in the tens of billions of dollars over the next several fiscal years.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Adults with disabilities continue to experience discrimination in education, employment, and healthcare settings. These challenges predictably result in reduced access to care and more limited opportunities, creating an often inescapable cycle of frustration for families trying to navigate the system. Shifting away from the use of harmful language will help in eliminating this stigma. [This bill] updates the Lanterman Act to ensure consistent use of person-first language, emphasizing each person’s humanity and moving away from stigmatizing language.

- 2) **Background. *The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act (Lanterman Act).*** The Lanterman Act provides services and supports for individuals three years of age and older who have a qualifying developmental disability, including autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, and other conditions closely related to intellectual disabilities that require similar treatment. To qualify, an individual must have a substantial disability that began before they reached 18 years of age and is expected to be lifelong. There are no income-related eligibility criteria.

The Lanterman Act requires DDS to contract with a statewide network of 21 regional centers, which are private, community-based nonprofit entities, to carry out many of the state's responsibilities. The 21 regional centers serve over 450,000 individuals, referred to as "consumers." According to The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration, sponsors of the bill:

[This bill] addresses outdated terminology in the Lanterman Act, including the continued use of the term "consumer." This term implies a commercial relationship that does not reflect the nature of services provided under the Act. By shifting to person first language and grounding descriptions in eligibility for services, the bill promotes dignity, respect, and accuracy in how people with developmental disabilities are described in statute.

***Respite Services.*** Respite services are used to relieve family members from the responsibility of providing care to their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Respite services are designed to, among other things, attend to the client's basic self-help needs and other activities of daily living, including interaction, socialization, and continuation of usual daily routines that would ordinarily be performed by the family members. DDS indicates respite is the most commonly authorized service provided by regional centers, at an annual General Fund cost of \$2 billion in fiscal year 2025-26.

Existing law defines "in-home respite services" as intermittent or regularly scheduled temporary nonmedical care and supervision provided in the client's own home, for a regional center client who resides with a family member.

This bill expands this definition to allow respite services to also be provided in the client's local community.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Jennifer Swenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081