

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1575 (Arambula)

As Amended May 18, 2026

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Updates the term consumer to person eligible for regional center services in the Lanterman Act.

**Major Provisions****COMMENTS**

Background: The words used by the media to write about mental health are very important and can help reduce stigma around mental illness if carefully chosen (American Psychiatric Association, 2024).<sup>1</sup> Some research has been undertaken to identify broader community preferences or usage impact. A study that assessed preferences of government employees found 60% surveyed preferred person-first language and 26% considered person- and identity-first language equivalent (Lynch et al., 1994).<sup>2</sup> When writing (or legislating) about people in the intellectual and developmental disabilities community, one should use language that emphasizes what people can do instead of what they cannot do (Americans with Disabilities Act National Network, 2024).<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the words we use to describe others can shape our perceptions of the people involved who are affected by those words (Foothold Technology, 2023).<sup>4</sup>

*This bill* updates the term consumer to person eligible for regional center services which may be more inclusive.

*Equity Implications:* The primary goal of the Lanterman Act is to empower Californians with developmental disabilities to live independent, productive, and normal lives, fully integrated into their communities. *This bill* allows respite services to be provided outside of the home, which enables individuals receiving these services to continue activities in the community and further allows them to be integrated into the community while simultaneously allowing caregivers to get a break.

**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."

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psychiatry.org/newsroom/reporting-on-mental-health-conditions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.proquest.com/openview/ec13dcdba2854ecaf64f7ad761593f0d/1?cbl=1819158&pq-origsite=gscholar>

<sup>3</sup> <https://adata.org/factsheet/ADANN-writing>

<sup>4</sup> <https://footholdtechnology.com/news/people-first-language/>

## Arguments in Support

According to the sponsors of this measure, The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration, "[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."

"The bill clarifies that respite services may be provided in and around the home and local community. Current statutory language suggests that respite must occur strictly within the home, which does not reflect how services are already being delivered in practice. [This bill] provides important clarity while maintaining the existing scope of the service. It does not expand entitlement, impose new requirements on providers, or alter rules related to transportation. Rather, it ensures that common sense activities such as going for a walk or meeting at a community location during respite care is clearly permissible."

## Arguments in Opposition

Doogri Institute writes in opposition (unless amended), "[This bill] risks obscuring consumer data from program integrity reviews, by obscuring what legislators can objectively analyze. California should not adopt changes that reduce visibility or diminish the role of individuals in safeguarding system integrity. Consumers have the desire to be identified and integrated into public policy. Our position is grounded in lived experience, and our consumer status should remain protected under DDS, not regional centers. When consumers are excluded from the data systems that define their care, their rights become invisible."

## FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 14, 2026:

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.

## VOTES

### ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 5-0-2

**YES:** Lee, Calderon, Elhawary, Jackson, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo, Tangipa

### ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

**YES:** Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

## UPDATED

VERSION: May 18, 2026

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