

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1628 (Michelle Rodriguez)
As Amended March 19, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Extends the laws providing for safe surrender of infants at designated locations from 72 hours or younger to 30 days of age or younger.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

According to the Author

"The postpartum period is one of the most vulnerable times in a person's life both physically and emotionally. In the days after childbirth, many mothers are recovering from trauma, experiencing severe hormonal changes, and, in some cases, facing postpartum depression, anxiety, or isolation. Expecting a life-altering decision within just 72 hours does not reflect this modern reality."

"AB 1628 extends the safe surrender window to 30 days, giving mothers the time they need to stabilize, seek support, and make a safe decision for their child. This bill is about recognizing the realities of postpartum depression and ensuring that no mother in crisis feels rushed into a moment of fear that could lead to tragedy. It is a compassionate, life-saving policy update that protects both mothers and their children."

Arguments in Support

According to the *California Professional Firefighters*, "California's Safe Surrender Law protects the health and safety of infants at risk of abandonment by allowing the parents or legal guardians of newborns to confidentially surrender the baby at a hospital room or designated fire station without risk of prosecution. This law has saved the lives of children who may have otherwise been abandoned by parents not equipped to care for them or who are in unstable or dangerous situations not suited for an infant. However, the current law only allows for the safe surrender of a child in the first 72 hours of their life, a narrow window in which the birthing parent may not have yet recovered enough to reach a safe surrender site or realized the need to surrender their child."

"AB 1628 extends this window from 72 hours to 30 days while still maintaining important child abuse and neglect laws, ensuring that parents who have realized they are unable to adequately care for their child are able to bring them to safety. This measure recognizes the impossible circumstances faced by many new parents while protecting the safety of children during the most vulnerable period of their lives."

Arguments in Opposition

None submitted.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) One-time unknown costs of an unknown but potentially minor amount (General Fund) to the California Departments of Social Services (CDSS) for updates to the statewide logo, public outreach and educational materials, training materials for safe-surrender site personnel, and modifications to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention's existing surrender-tracking and reporting infrastructure.
- 2) Reimbursable mandate costs (General Fund), of an unknown but likely minor amount, to local agencies for the one-time replacement of statewide logo signage at hospitals, fire stations, and other designated safe-surrender sites to reflect the 30-day eligibility window. The bill expressly provides that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines the act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement shall be made pursuant to existing statutory provisions.
- 3) Reimbursable mandate costs (Proposition 98 General Fund), of an unknown but likely minor amount, to school districts for the one-time update of comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education curriculum and instructional materials to reflect the 30-day eligibility window.
- 4) Costs of an unknown but likely moderate amount to county child welfare services agencies for any incremental increase in safe-surrender intake, dependency petitions, and CDSS notifications resulting from the extended eligibility window. CDSS reports approximately 1,542 infants have been safely surrendered statewide since the program's enactment in 2001. Cost magnitude depends on the extent to which the extended window increases the volume of surrenders.
- 5) Costs of an unknown but likely minor amount for workload costs to trial courts (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) for any incremental dependency petitions filed in connection with surrendered children.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

VOTES**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-1**

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins
ABS, ABST OR NV: Lackey

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 7-0-0

YES: Lee, Castillo, Calderon, Elhawary, Blanca Rubio, Ahrens, Tangipa

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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