

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1632 (Johnson)
As Amended March 19, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Removes the requirement that trespass letters of authorization be submitted in *notarized* writing on a law enforcement agency (LEA)-provided form, to cover a period of time of up to 12 months, during a period where there is a fire hazard or the owner, owner's agent, or person in lawful possession is absent from the premises or property, or when the premises or property are closed to the public and posted as being closed.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

According to the Author

"As a former Mayor and Council Member for Lake Elsinore, I've seen firsthand how administrative red tape can hinder public safety. Law enforcement relies on 602 Letters to enforce trespassing laws and prevent unauthorized entry of unoccupied properties, but current standards requiring notarization and limiting duration of such letters poses undue burden on property owners and local governments. AB 1632 provides a crucial, commonsense tool for law enforcement to better protect property rights by extending the duration of 602 Letters to three yea[r]s and removing onerous notarization requirements. These changes ensure that property rights are upheld and trespassing enforcement can be performed proactively."

Arguments in Support

According to the *City of Riverside*, "As a city committed to public safety and property protection, Riverside is taking proactive steps to address persistent challenges related to trespass and unauthorized property occupation. We are proud to sponsor AB 1632, which amends Section 602 of the Penal Code to strengthen enforcement tools and improve property protection for communities across California.

"AB 1632 makes two critical improvements:

- 1) Removes the notarization requirement for submitting a request for peace officer assistance in dealing with trespass incidents. This change streamlines the process for property owners and local agencies, reducing administrative burdens and improving responsiveness.
- 2) Extends the duration of a single request for peace officer assistance from 12 months to 3 years for properties that are closed to the public, present a fire hazard, or where the owner is absent. This extension provides greater efficiency and continuity in enforcement, particularly for properties that remain vulnerable for extended periods.

"Riverside faces ongoing challenges with unauthorized entry and occupation of properties, which can lead to public safety hazards, fire risks, and significant costs for property owners and taxpayers. By simplifying the request process and allowing longer coverage periods, AB 1632 will help law enforcement respond more effectively and reduce repeated administrative filings."

Arguments in Opposition

According to the *National Alliance to End Homelessness*, AB 1632 "significantly expand[s] the scope of existing trespassing procedures without regard for due process protections or other unintended consequences of this expansion. Moreover, this bill would disproportionately target people experiencing homelessness and lead to more sanctions and penalties that add more impediments to getting back into housing.

"Under existing law, property owners that are seeking to remove a suspected trespasser can submit a letter to local law enforcement, giving them the mandate to remove people from the designated property for up to one year. Up until recently, the submittal of these trespass letters, often referred to as "602 letters" in reference to California Penal Code Section 602, led to a 30 day period where law enforcement was authorized to remove potential trespassers. As of January 1, 2024, Penal Code Section 602 was changed to dramatically extend this 30-day period to one year, and gave additional flexibility to allow property owners to submit these letters electronically. Meanwhile, AB 1632 proposes to expand this period from one year to three years, and to remove the requirement for these letters to be notarized.

"Given this very recent expansion of Penal Code 602, it would not [be] appropriate to further expand the scope while California is still seeking to understand the ramifications of recent changes. Additionally, crime data do not substantiate any need for this expansion—in 2024, property crime declined nearly 10% from the prior year, reaching its lowest levels in 30 years.

"Moreover, expanding the length of time that 602 letters can remain in effect, coupled with the ability to submit these letters electronically without notarization, increases the likelihood of letters being submitted in absentia, and leading to arrests based on extremely outdated information, which would likely undermine critical due process protections.

"Finally, this policy would fall disproportionately on people experiencing homelessness, and extensive evidence shows it would likely exacerbate and prolong their homelessness. Trespassing is often one of the most common offenses used to cite people experiencing homelessness. Yet the arrests, citations, and fines that arise from these offenses often make it harder for people to move back into housing—one recent study showed citations and arrests prolonged a person's homelessness for nearly two years, even when controlling for other factors

"Public safety and homelessness consistently top the list of priorities for California voters. However, given recent changes to Penal Code 602, AB 1632 would only exacerbate homelessness while providing now discernible benefit to communities other than to increase arbitrary penalties falling hardest on a community's poorest residents."

FISCAL COMMENTS

Unknown. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

VOTES

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-0-0

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

UPDATED

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