

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 1645 (Mark González) – As Introduced January 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) regulations from unreasonably restricting nonsexual physical contact between incarcerated persons and their visitors during contact visits.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CDCR, in amending existing regulations and adopting future regulations to ensure that regulations related to nonsexual physical contact in incarcerated person visitation are not excessive or unnecessarily punitive.
- 2) Defines “nonsexual physical contact” as including:
 - a) Hand holding
 - b) Kissing
 - c) Touching of the face or hair
 - d) Holding and feeding of the incarcerated person’s minor children
 - e) Holding of the incarcerated person’s minor children and holding of their minor children while accompanied by an adult.
- 3) Requires CDCR, in amending existing regulations or adopting future regulations impacting visitation, to recognize and consider the importance of nonsexual physical contact in incarcerated person visitation.

FISCAL EFFECT:

CDCR anticipates cost pressures (General Fund) of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, to enhance visitation monitoring, screening, and contraband interdiction activities if visitation-related physical contact is expanded. According to CDCR, expanded physical contact allowances and the requirement that such contact be permitted throughout the visit may require operational adjustments to maintain institutional safety and security.

These cost pressures may be overstated because CDCR already operates a comprehensive visitor screening and monitoring system, and existing regulations already contemplate contact visitation

in many circumstances. Because the existing operational model already accommodates in-person contact visitation—with supervision and screening procedures designed for that setting—this measure appears to clarify the type of permissible contact rather than creating an entirely new visitation system.

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.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** The importance of visitation for incarcerated people and their families is well recognized. On its website, CDCR affirmatively states that visitation helps incarcerated people maintain family connection and community ties and existing law requires CDCR regulations to recognize and consider the value of visitation for successful release and rehabilitation. During visits, CDCR restricts the time and manner of physical interaction between incarcerated people and their visitors: CDCR regulations provide that no bodily contact is permitted during visitation, except hand holding between an incarcerated person and their visitors and a brief embrace or kiss between an incarcerated person and their visitors at the beginning and end of each visit, and an incarcerated person may hold their minor children and may hold children accompanied by an adult.

This bill would prohibit CDCR regulations from unreasonably restricting the ability of incarcerated persons or their visitors to have nonsexual physical contact throughout the visit, replacing the existing prohibition on bodily contact with limited exceptions.

As explained by the author, “AB 1645 affirms that dignity, humanity, and clarity belong in the visitation process.”

- 2) **Related Legislation:** AB 1646 (Bryan) would provide that all youth confined in a juvenile facility have the right to engage in physical contact with visitors during in-person visits that a reasonable person would find nonsexual and appropriate under the circumstances. AB 1646 is currently pending before this committee.

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