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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### **AB 1645 (Mark González) - Corrections: Humanizing and Uniting Generations Safely (HUGS) Act of 2026**

**Version:** January 27, 2026  
**Urgency:** No  
**Hearing Date:** June 29, 2026

**Policy Vote:** PUB. S. 6 - 0  
**Mandate:** No  
**Consultant:** Bob Franzoia

**Bill Summary:** AB 1645 would enact the Humanizing and Uniting Generations Safely (HUGS) Act of 2026 to require California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) regulations recognize the importance of physical contact in incarcerated person visitations. CDCR would be prohibited from unreasonably restricting the ability of incarcerated persons or their visitors to engage in certain types of nonsexual physical contact during the visit.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unknown, potentially major costs to CDCR to enhance visitation monitoring, screening and contraband interdiction activities if visitation related physical contact is expanded. Expanded physical contact allowances and the requirement that such contact shall be permitted during the visit may require operational adjustments to maintain institutional safety and security (General Fund).

**Background:** Existing law requires CDCR regulations to recognize and consider the value of visiting as a means to improve the safety of prisons for both staff and incarcerated persons, and the important role of incarcerated person visitation in establishing and maintaining a meaningful connection with family and community.

CDCR facilities must provide at least 12 hours of visiting per week and requires regular visiting days to be consecutive and include Saturday and Sunday.

There generally are three types of visitation: in-person visits, in-person non-contact visits, and family visits. According to CDCR most incarcerated people in the general population may participate in an in-person visit. These visits allow the incarcerated person to sit together with their visitor(s) in a designated shared space, usually furnished with tables and chairs. In-person visits are limited to five visitors at a time and are not limited in duration except for normal visiting hours or terminations caused by overcrowding.

In-person non-contact visits are for incarcerated people in reception or in segregation. Non-contact visits occur with a glass partition between the incarcerated person and the visitor. *The incarcerated person is escorted in handcuffs by staff. The handcuffs are removed only after the incarcerated person is secured to their side of the visiting booth.* Non-contact visits are restricted to three visitors and are limited in time.

Family visits (overnight visitation) are visits where the incarcerated person and immediate family members are permitted to spend time in private facilities on prison grounds, for a duration of approximately 30 to 40 hours. Incarcerated persons

sentenced to death, convicted for sex offenses, still in reception, or under disciplinary restrictions are not permitted to have family visits.

**Proposed Law:** This bill adds Penal Code 6406 to define nonsexual physical contact, as all the following actions:

- (1) Hand holding.*
- (2) Kissing.*
- (3) Hugging and lateral holding or side-to-side contact.*
- (4) Linking arms.*
- (5) In-movement or transitory touching.*
- (6) Touching of the face or hair.*
- (7) Adjusting each other's clothing without removing articles of clothing.*
- (8) Holding of the incarcerated person's minor children and holding of their minor children while accompanied by an adult.*
- (9) Feeding of the incarcerated person's minor children.*
- (10) Feeding of the incarcerated person by minor children.*
- (11) Any other physical touch that a reasonable person would define as nonsexual and appropriate.*

CDCR regulations permit kissing and hugging at the beginning and at the end of in-person visits and the feeding of the incarcerated person's minor children and the feeding of the incarcerated person by minor children. Conflicts will likely arise as reasonable persons differ over what is nonsexual and appropriate physical touching and what operational adjustments CDCR makes in response.

**Related Legislation:** AB 1646 (Bryan), the Hugs Act, would require that all youth confined in a juvenile facility have the right to engage in certain types of nonsexual physical contact during in-person visits. The bill would require all juvenile facilities to establish regulations and procedures consistent with these provisions. To the extent that this bill would impose a higher level of service on local facilities, it would impose a state-mandated local program. AB 1646 will be heard in this committee August 3, 2026.