
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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

Version: January 27, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 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.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026**

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).

Author Amendments:

- Provided nonsexual physical contact includes, but is not limited to, all the following actions:
 - Holding of the incarcerated person's minor children and holding of their minor children while accompanied by an adult.
 - Feeding of the incarcerated person's minor children.
 - Feeding of the incarcerated person by minor children.
 - Hand holding.
 - Linking arms.
 - In-movement or transitory touching that any reasonable person would define as nonsexual and appropriate.
 - Brief touching of the face or hair.
 - An embrace at the beginning and end of the visit and lateral holding or side-to-side contact during the duration of the visit.

- Kissing at the beginning and end of the visit, and brief kisses on the cheek or forehead during the visit.
- Clarify that physical contact shall be limited to conduct that is nonsexual and appropriate for visitation.
- Provide that, before terminating a visit, issuing a rules violation, or taking other disciplinary action based on alleged minor violations of inappropriate physical contact, department staff shall provide a clear verbal warning and a reasonable opportunity to immediately correct the conduct. If the contact continues, or there are excessive or unlawful activities occurring, the department may take action appropriate for the situation.
- Clarify that these provisions do not prohibit or discourage other forms of nonsexual physical contact that department staff determine is reasonable, appropriate, and consistent.
- Clarify that these provisions do not limit the authority of CDCR to conduct searches, supervise visits, or impose restrictions necessary to prevent the introduction or exchange of contraband.

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