
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1646 (Bryan) - Juvenile facilities: visitation

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1646, the Hug Act, would add the right to engage in certain types of consensual physical contact with visitors during in-person visits to the Youth Bill of Rights and would establish requirements for the provision of this right. To the extent that this bill would impose a higher level of service on local facilities, it would impose a state mandated local program.

Fiscal Impact: Likely major costs to county probation departments to provide the right to consensual physical contact in juvenile facilities. Expanded physical contact allowances and the requirement that such contact shall be permitted during in person visits may require operational adjustments to maintain institutional safety and security. These costs, possibly reimbursable by the state could be both major at the local level (Los Angeles County is estimating up to \$1 million annually) and greater in the aggregate statewide. Costs will depend on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund).

Background: Existing law provides that the purpose of the juvenile court system is to provide for the protection and safety of the public and each minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and that minors under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court who are in need of protective services shall receive care treatment and guidance consistent with their best interest and the best interests of the public

Proposed Law: This bill establishes a right for all youth confined in a juvenile facility to 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, including hugging at the beginning and end of the visit and holding hands.

This bill requires that limitations to physical contact during in-person visits is only implemented when a significant safety and security concern is present, including pursuant to any court-ordered restrictions on visitations or visitors for a youth confined in a juvenile facility or a temporary and specific health concern. Requires that physical contact is only temporarily restricted for a specific youth or visitor as necessary to address the significant safety and security concern.

This bill requires that all significant safety and security concerns and subsequent contact limitations shall be documented in detail, including the duration of the contact limitation and any additional accommodations or security measures implemented to facilitate a return to physical contact visits. The documentation shall be made available to the Division of the Ombudsman of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration upon request.

This bill requires that all juvenile facilities establish regulations and procedures for in-person visitation consistent with the requirements in this bill.

Related Legislation: AB 1645 (M Gonzalez) 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. It would not provide a right to nonsexual physical contact. AB 1645 is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.