

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1681 (Ramos) – As Introduced February 2, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the court and the district attorney's office or other prosecuting agency to ensure that a victim's contact information and next of kin is provided to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) at the time of sentencing if a defendant is sentenced to state prison.

The bill further clarifies the failure of a victim to submit a separate request for services or notification does not relieve the state of its duty to provide information.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) The Department of Justice does not anticipate any financial impact. Local prosecutors may incur costs of an unknown, but potentially substantial amount. If the Commission on State Mandates determines this bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to local agencies.
- 2) Likely costs in the high hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars annually (General Fund), with roughly half of these costs ongoing, to CDCR to support increased victim registration, verification, outreach, notification, and restitution processing workload. Primary cost drivers include additional staffing to process and verify victim information, expanded outreach and notification activities, and potential one-time and ongoing information technology and accounting system enhancements.

According to CDCR, current victim registration rates are approximately 25 percent due to incomplete or insufficient identifying information. By improving access to victim contact information, CDCR expects increased registration rates and participation in notification and restitution processes, thereby increasing its administrative workload. CDCR anticipates that additional staffing resources will be required and that system enhancements may be necessary to support these expanded activities.

- 3) Likely costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, potentially exceeding that amount (General Fund), for one-time and ongoing updates to case management systems and related administrative processes.

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.** According to the author,

Making sure that victims are kept up to date on critical notifications about an offender is crucial. The current process is burdensome on victims because they must complete a form to receive notifications about an offender although the courts and attorneys already have the victim's information on hand. Improving the accessibility and completion of CDCR Form 1707 must become an immediate priority to safeguard victims' rights. It is a burden that should be removed from their shoulders and avoids revictimizing them.

2) **Background.** Under existing law, the victim of crime, family member to a victim, or a witness who testified against the offender may request to be notified of a change to the custody status of the offender. A change in custody status includes release, death, escape, parole hearing, transfer to another prison, discharge from parole, contract, or scheduled execution. Requests can be made by completing a CDCR form. A victim would otherwise not be notified of a change in custody. Victim services advocates contend that most victims are unaware of the CDCR process for requesting victim notification. Many victims mistakenly assume they will be notified by CDCR of an offender's transfer, release, parole hearings and decisions, escapes and special parole conditions. This bill would streamline the process, by requiring the courts and the prosecuting agency to automatically transfer the information to CDCR at the time of sentencing.

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