

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1681 (Ramos)

As Amended May 18, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

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 and to the extent contact information is reasonably available. Failure of a victim to submit a separate request for services or notification shall not relieve the state of its duty to provide information.

Major Provisions**COMMENTS****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."

Arguments in Support

According to the *Burbank Police Officers Association*, "Thousands of crime victims in California are unknowingly missing critical notifications about offenders because they have not completed, or properly completed, the relevant CDCR Form 1707. AB [1681] addresses that gap by ensuring victims' rights is implemented by automatically transferring the required information to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). California's sentencing and release framework has changed dramatically in recent years. Under current law, offenders may be released significantly earlier than victims were originally told. These accelerating release timelines make timely and reliable victim notification more critical than ever. Many victims mistakenly assume they will be notified by CDCR of an offender's transfer, release, parole hearings/decisions, escapes and special parole conditions, only to AB 1681 would not create new rights or obligations. Instead, it simply ensures that existing protections, notifications and rights of victims are realized, as guaranteed under the California Constitution."

Arguments in Opposition

None submitted.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 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% 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.

VOTES**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-0-0**

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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