

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1737 (Lackey) – As Introduced February 5, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety Vote: 9 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to notify county probation departments of a person's scheduled release to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) at least 90 days before discharge, up from 30 days under existing law.

Specifically,

- 1) Requires CDCR to provide a county probation department with the name and contact information for the person's prerelease care manager, postrelease care manager, and enhanced care manager (ECM) under California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) to ensure coordination between state reentry processes and local service delivery.
- 2) Requires CDCR to coordinate with the county probation department when a person's current county of residence differs from the county of last legal residence, including developing coordinated plans for release and transport.
- 3) Adds the county chief probation officer to the officials CDCR must notify when a person serving a term for a violent felony, child abuse, or specified sex offenses against a minor is scheduled for release on parole or immediate court-ordered release.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs (General Fund) to CDCR of an unknown but potentially significant amount. CDCR releases approximately 30,000 people from state prison annually, of whom nearly half are released to PRCS. CDCR estimates it would incur significant ongoing costs, likely totaling several million dollars annually, driven primarily by the extended notification window. CDCR states that release dates change frequently — due to workgroup reassignments, credit earnings, credit losses, and sentencing modifications — and each change within the 90-day window could trigger a new notification to the county, substantially increasing workload for Case Records staff. CDCR anticipates needing several additional permanent positions, hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime costs, and additional staffing for CalAIM-related notifications and cross-county transportation.

Some of these cost estimates may be overstated. The bill's sponsor — the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC)— states that CDCR already provides this information no fewer than 165 days prior to release under existing operational agreements with county probation departments.

The state must reimburse these costs from the General Fund if the Commission on State Mandates determines the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate. The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author,

Probation departments recognize the importance of early, timely, and robust reentry planning prior to release. This bill would codify the 90-day timeline for the sharing of information from CDCR to probation departments to ensure that county probation can plan, prepare and coordinate reentry services prior to release.

2) **Background.** AB 109 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 15, Statutes of 2011, enacted Criminal Justice Realignment, which shifted supervision of certain people released from state prison from CDCR parole agents to county probation departments. The law created PRCS for people released after serving a prison term for a felony that is not a serious or violent felony, or a sex offense requiring registration. Under existing law, a person released to PRCS is supervised by the county probation department for up to three years. Realignment was driven in significant part by federal court orders requiring California to reduce its prison population. A three-judge panel found that overcrowding was the primary reason CDCR could not provide constitutionally adequate health care, and the United States Supreme Court upheld that finding in *Brown v. Plata* (2011). Existing statute requires CDCR to provide county probation departments with information about a person being released to PRCS 30 days prior to release. According to CPOC, existing operational agreements already require this information to be shared no fewer than 165 days prior to release. This bill would codify a 90-day timeline and add requirements for CalAIM care manager information sharing and cross-county release coordination that are not in current law.

The Governor vetoed AB 1210 (Lackey), of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, which was substantially similar to this bill. In the veto message, the Governor stated that “the practical implications of this bill would result in significant, ongoing costs to the state with limited benefit to public safety,” citing the numerous factors that trigger recalculations of release dates and the resulting multiple recurring notifications to counties. This bill does not appear to substantively address the concerns raised in the veto message. The only new provisions not in AB 1210 are the addition of the county chief probation officer to the officials CDCR must notify for releases involving violent felonies, child abuse, and sex offenses against minors, and authorization for CDCR to share parole information with the chief probation officer.

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