
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator John Laird, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 174	Hearing Date:	June 29, 2026
Author:	Committee on Budget		
Version:	June 26, 2026 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	No
Consultant:	Nora Brackbill		

Subject: Courts

Summary: This bill, as part of the 2026-27 Budget package, makes the following statutory changes:

- 1) Makes the following changes related to remote court proceedings:
 - a) Extends the sunset on specified court proceedings, including certain criminal, civil, and juvenile matters, from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2032.
 - b) Clarifies the standard in which a court may require an in-person appearance at specified civil matters, including a judicial assessment that in-person appearance is necessary to the determination of, or that remote attendance would materially impair the resolution of, the hearing.
 - c) Beginning January 1, 2027, requires courts to provide a reason for requiring an in-person appearance at specified civil matters, and requires the reason to be documented in the record or in an order or form.
- 2) Extends the deadline for superior courts to provide court users with access to lactation rooms as required by AB 1576 (Committee on Judiciary), Chapter 200, Statutes of 2022 from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2029.
- 3) Appropriates \$100,000 General Fund to the Judicial Council for facility modifications related to lactation rooms.

Fiscal Effect: The provisions of this bill are necessary to implement the requirements of the 2026-27 Budget Act.

Support: None on file.

Opposed: None on file.

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