
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1902 (Pellerin) - Secure youth treatment facilities

Version: June 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1902 would authorize a court to order an extended confinement for a person who is set to be discharged from a secure youth treatment facility (SYTF) for up to four years based on a finding that the person is physically dangerous to the public. To the extent this bill would increase local duties relating to the confinement of persons in a SYTF, this bill would impose a state mandated local program.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact: Unknown costs to the counties to extend SYTF confinement from two years to up to three years upon a court finding. For a cost reference, the average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately \$80,000. With the small number of youths who have SYTF commitments extended under Welfare and Institutions Code 876, extensions could go on indefinitely, so the person could be over age 18, or even over age 25. Regardless, their custody and control remains with the county, either in the SYTF or, for those persons over age 25, who remain under juvenile court jurisdiction, the court could refer them for a civil commitment or transfer custody to adult probation to place the person in an adult institution (but still as a ward of the juvenile court until the commitment ends). Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

Likely significant court cost pressure for additional hearings in juvenile courts to determine if a person set for discharge is physically dangerous to the public. These hearings are among the costliest hearings held in juvenile courts. Each hearing may last at least a week of court time, with concomitant costs to the District Attorney, appointed defense counsel, and the juvenile probation department. Additionally, there are court costs for expert witnesses that are routinely necessary, including experts in adolescent neuropsychology and intellectual disability experts.

Committee Amendments: Authorize a court to order an extended confinement for a person who is set to be discharged from a secure youth treatment facility (SYTF) for up to three years.

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