
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1914 (Schiavo) - General plan elements: childcare

Version: June 8, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: L. GOV. 5-1, HUMAN S. 3-1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Mark McKenzie

Bill Summary: AB 1914 would require cities and counties to adopt or integrate a childcare plan in the next adoption of their general plan, but no later than January 1, 2033, to address the childcare needs of the jurisdiction, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) estimates one-time costs of approximately \$104,000 annually for two years for 0.5 PY of staff time to incorporate the relevant childcare plan elements into LCI's General Plan Guidelines. (General Fund)
- Unknown, potentially significant local costs for jurisdictions to include a childcare plan in the next adoption of the general plan, or by January 1, 2033, as specified. Local costs related to general plan updates are generally not state-reimbursable because cities and counties have the authority to charge and adjust planning and permitting fees to cover their administrative expenses associated with new local planning mandates. See Staff Comments. (local funds)

Background: Existing law requires cities and counties to adopt a general plan with eight mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and environmental justice. Although state law specifies the minimum requirements of a plan, local officials may adopt optional elements that address additional topics based on regional necessity. Once adopted, those optional elements have the same legal force as the mandatory elements. The general plan must be "internally consistent," which means the various elements cannot have conflicting information or assumptions. With the exception of the housing element, which must be updated every five to eight years, cities and counties are not required to regularly update the general plan.

Existing law requires LCI to develop and adopt advisory guidelines to assist cities and counties in the preparation and content of the mandatory elements required in general plans. These guidelines outline statutory requirements, offer policy language recommendations, and provide examples of cities and counties that have adopted similar policies across both mandatory and optional elements. The guidelines strive to support local governments and other community partners in crafting plans that reflect state law while addressing community needs and priorities. LCI is required to regularly review and revise these guidelines as necessary. The last full update of LCI's General Plan Guidelines was published in 2017, and LCI is currently working on a comprehensive update to their planning guidance, including the General Plan Guidelines.

Each county in California has a Local Childcare Planning Council (LPC) established to identify local childcare priorities and develop policies to address those needs. State law requires the county board of supervisors and the county superintendent of schools to appoint members to these councils, ensuring balanced representation of consumers, childcare providers, public agency representatives, community representatives, and discretionary appointees. LPCs are responsible for conducting a countywide childcare needs assessment at least once every five years, developing comprehensive plans to mobilize public and private resources and to address identified needs, and ensuring community input in setting local priorities. Many LPCs have developed these strategic plans informed by needs assessment and community feedback.

Proposed Law: AB 1914 would require cities and counties to adopt or integrate a childcare plan into the next adoption of their general plan, but no later than January 1, 2033, to address the childcare needs of the jurisdiction. If the city or county has already adopted a similar childcare plan that meets the requirements of the bill, the local jurisdiction may designate that childcare plan to comply with these requirements.

Related Legislation: AB 752 (Ávila Farías), Chap. 164/2025, provided that a daycare center that is collocated with multifamily housing shall be considered a residential use of property and a use by right.

SB 234 (Skinner), Chap. 244/2019, made all family childcare homes a residential use of property and a use by right for purposes of all local ordinances and prohibited all family child care homes from being subject to a business license, tax, or fee.

Staff Comments: The mandated local planning costs associated with this bill would generally not be subject to state reimbursement because local agencies have the authority to charge and adjust planning and permitting fees as necessary to cover administrative costs. Existing law authorizes planning and zoning fees to “include the costs reasonably necessary to prepare and revise the plans and policies that a local agency is required to adopt before it can make any necessary findings and determinations.” Case law and previous decisions by the Commission on State Mandates support the position that local governments’ planning costs are not reimbursable when the state imposes new planning mandates.

-- END --