

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1925 (Jeff Gonzalez and Alanis)
As Amended March 16, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) to complete and report back to the Legislature a feasibility study for establishing a state permanent disability certification program.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires CalHHS, in consultation with relevant state departments within the agency, to complete a feasibility study that includes a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and opportunities related to establishing a state permanent disability certification program.
- 2) Requires, for purposes of completing the feasibility study, the agency to reasonably attempt to consult with local stakeholders, including, but not limited to, independent living centers, Aging and Disability Resource Connection programs, disability-led organizations, and county agencies.
- 3) Requires the analysis within the study to address, at a minimum, all of the following:
 - a) The ability to detect and prevent fraud within a state permanent disability certification program;
 - b) The ability of the state to protect individual privacy;
 - c) Technological limitations; and,
 - d) Compatibility of a permanent disability certification for use within existing federal, state, and local programs.
- 4) Requires by July 1, 2028, CalHHS to submit a legislative report and post the report on its website.
- 5) Makes the implementation of this bill contingent on an appropriation from the Legislature.
- 6) Sunsets this bill on January 1, 2032.

COMMENTS

Background: *Disability in California*. Disability is defined differently for different purposes, but generally refers to an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that limits a major life activity. According to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), in 2024, there were more than 1.8 million California adults aged 25 to 64 have at least one disability that impacted their daily life.¹

¹ <https://www.ppic.org/blog/working-helps-keep-californians-with-disabilities-out-of-poverty/>

California has a number of programs designed to benefit people with disabilities. These include medical, nutritional, financial and housing assistance, as well as benefits that allow people with disabilities to receive subsidized licenses or permits such as fishing or parking. These programs have different program requirements that align with the impairment. For example, a person must have a mobility impairment to qualify for services that provide mobility assistance. For program integrity, all of these programs require some certification to verify that the person is, in fact, impaired and meets the requirements set forth for program participation. The acceptable certifications vary by who is allowed to do the certifying. Many require a physician, but some allow for broader medical professionals to verify the existence of a disability. If someone does have a disability, then it is likely they will qualify for more than one program which means they will need to provide proof repeatedly in different forms. There is not one singular form that is accepted by all state entities to verify eligibility. *This bill* seeks to establish a feasibility study for such a form.

Individuals living with disabilities often rely on public programs for safety, livelihood, and other basic needs that able-bodied persons can independently do. Applying and re-applying to these vital programs can be difficult and time-consuming. Conducting a feasibility study may allow the state to consider ways to ease burdensome proof of disability requirements amongst state programs.

According to the Author

"Californians with permanent disabilities are too often forced to repeatedly prove the same lifelong condition just to access basic services. This duplicative system creates unnecessary burdens for individuals, families, providers, and government agencies. [This bill] takes a thoughtful approach by studying how a statewide permanent disability certification could streamline access and reduce inefficiencies. By exploring this solution, we can improve access to and continuity of care for those that need it most."

Arguments in Support

Area 12 Agency on Aging, Caring Across Generations, Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living (DRAIL), and Service Center for Independent Life, write in support that, "Millions of Californians with permanent disabilities rely on multiple public programs to meet their basic needs, including health care, housing, in-home services, transportation, and utilities. Each program operates with its own eligibility and disability verification requirements. California lacks a way for individuals to confirm the existence of a permanent disability for the purpose of accessing multiple programs. As a result, individuals are often required to repeatedly verify the same lifelong condition to access or maintain services. This process frequently involves submitting duplicative medical records, physician certifications, and functional assessments across multiple systems.

"While a statewide permanent disability certification could reduce these burdens, significant implementation challenges must be carefully evaluated. Key considerations include ensuring safeguarding sensitive personal and medical information, and addressing technological limitations across state and local systems. A feasibility study would help stakeholders understand the benefits and challenges of a statewide permanent disability certification program."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 6, 2026:

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) within CalHHS estimates total costs of approximately \$1 million annually until the report is produced and the bill sunsets on January 1, 2032. These costs include approximately three additional positions and any necessary contract to support the completion of a feasibility study and comprehensive analysis, as specified.

The author has requested \$2 million in the 2026-27 budget to fund the study proposed in this bill. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the General Fund faces a structural deficit in the tens of billions of dollars over the next several fiscal years.

VOTES**ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 7-0-0**

YES: Lee, Castillo, Calderon, Elhawary, Jackson, Solache, Tangipa

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

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

UPDATED

VERSION: March 16, 2026

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