
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1925 (Jeff Gonzalez) - State permanent disability certification program: feasibility study

Version: March 16, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1925 would require the California Health and Human Services Agency to complete a feasibility study related to establishing a state permanent disability certification program.

Fiscal Impact: The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) estimates costs of approximately \$1 million annually until the January 1, 2032 sunset date for staffing resources and contracts to complete the study and report (General Fund and federal funds).

Background: 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 type of impairment. For example, a person would qualify for the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program if they cannot use a standard telephone due to difficulty seeing, hearing, speaking, moving, or remembering. These programs require certification to verify that the applicant is impaired and meets eligibility requirements for participation. This may require a physician or other medical professional to verify the existence of an applicant's disability. The certification process protects program integrity by ensuring resources are provided to those who need them. However, because people with disabilities may qualify for multiple programs and eligibility differs by program, people with disabilities must repeatedly provide evidence of their disability.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Define "state permanent disability certification program" to mean a certification issued by a state department confirming that an individual has a permanent disability for the purpose of obtaining services.
- Require the California Health and Human Services Agency, 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.
- Require the analysis within the study to address, at a minimum, all of the following:
 - The ability to detect and prevent fraud within a state permanent disability certification program.

- The ability of the state to protect individual privacy.
- Technological limitations.
- Compatibility of a permanent disability certification for use within existing federal, state, and local programs.
- Require, by July 1, 2028, the agency to submit a report of the completed study to the Legislature and to post the report on the agency's internet website.
- Condition implementation upon appropriation made by the Legislature.
- Sunset the bill's provisions on January 1, 2032.

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