

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2041 (Carrillo)

As Amended April 16, 2026

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), when reviewing and updating technical and operational standards for public agency systems connecting to "9-1-1" public safety answering points, to include updates to 9-1-1 call processing services for an emergency medical response.

**Major Provisions**

Specifies that this bill does not authorize the office to determine for a public safety agency the training standards for, or the content of, the prearrival medical instructions described in existing law.

**COMMENTS**

- 1) *Recent Updates to 9-1-1 Technical and Operational Standards.* This bill proposes to establish a compliance mechanism, under the administration of CalOES, for recently passed legislation relating to the 911 system. Existing law enacted pursuant to AB 635 (Carrillo) Chapter 275, Statutes of 2025 requires that, by January 1, 2027, a public safety agency that provides 911 call processing to provide prearrival medical instructions to 911 callers requiring medical assistance for the following, at minimum: airway and choking instructions, automatic external defibrillator (AED) and Customer Premise Equipment (CPR) instructions, childbirth, bleeding control and hemorrhage, administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis, and administration of naloxone for narcotics overdoses. The rationale for implementing these prearrival medical instructions was to increase the likelihood of survival of patients. These prearrival medical instructions are to be approved by the local emergency medical services agency (LEMSA) medical director. Under this bill, OES would be required to include updates related to prearrival instructions in their technical and operational standards for public agency systems connecting to 911.
- 2) *Leverage the State Emergency Telephone Number Account (SETNA):* According to the author's statements, this bill purports to link SETNA funding to compliance with existing law. SETNA was created to fund the planning and implementation (former and current) of a uniform three-digit telephone number (9-1-1) through which emergency services can be obtained. This includes payments to service suppliers or communications equipment companies, for installation and ongoing communications services supplied to local agencies in connection with the "911" emergency phone system and "988" system. The account is funded through surcharges on intrastate telephone communications pursuant to the Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Act. Under existing law, CalOES may impose a surcharge up to 80 cents per access line. The 911 surcharge rate for calendar year 2026 is 41 cents. SETNA is expected to receive \$215 million in surcharge revenue in 2026-27.

Proponents and opponents alike, argue that CalOES would be authorized under the bill to reduce the SETNA reimbursement funding to individual PSAPs that have not complied with providing prearrival instructions or met any new related technical or operational standards set by Cal OES. While Cal OES may have the legal authority to reduce SETNA funding, in

practice CalOES does not reduce PSAP funding. CalOES views their role as administrative and not focused on enforcement. SETNA funding levels are dependent on the specific requests made by PSAPs, such as for Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) replacement or training hours, rather than CalOES stepping in to reduce funding based on their review process.

### **According to the Author**

"In medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest or choking, immediate bystander intervention before first responders arrive can mean the difference between life and death. The American Heart Association reports that prompt CPR can double or even triple a person's chances of survival following cardiac arrest. AB 2041 strengthens this critical link by requiring applicants for SETNA funding to demonstrate compliance with existing law requiring public safety agencies to train dispatchers to provide lifesaving pre-arrival instructions. Since CalOES has never reduced SETNA funding and doesn't have a mechanism to do so, AB 2041 will not put public safety funding at risk. Instead, it enables CalOES to assist non-compliant agencies in identifying and implementing a path to compliance. By investing in these proven, lifesaving practices, we can better equip everyday Californians with the guidance they need to act in those first critical moments."

### **Arguments in Support**

According to the California Ambulance Association: "Last year, AB 645 addressed [a] challenge by requiring public safety dispatchers to provide life-saving pre-arrival instructions. With this requirement in place, dispatchers can guide callers through critical interventions such as CPR or the Heimlich maneuver, increasing survival rates. According to the American Heart Association, immediate CPR can double or triple the chance of survival from an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. While the passage of AB 645 set the framework for critical life-saving measures, AB 2041 is equally as important to ensure that all public safety dispatch agencies comply with these new requirements."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

According to CALNENA: "The premise of AB 2041 is that Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) will not comply with the provisions of AB 645, and therefore the Legislature must enact legislation, barely 6 months after the measure was signed by the Governor, to compel compliance by restricting PSAP's access to [SETNA] funding if they do not comply. It is important to note that AB 645 has a delayed implementation date of January 1, 2027...This means that a legislative conversation about enforcement is premature, and unwarranted. Further, the enforcement mechanism proposed in AB 2041 is overly punitive and would set a troubling precedent by restricting a PSAPs access to SETNA funding."

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, costs to CalOES should be minor and absorbable.

## **VOTES**

### **ASM COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE: 8-0-1**

**YES:** Boerner, Hoover, Bonta, Caloza, Krell, Lowenthal, Rogers, Blanca Rubio

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez

### **ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 7-0-0**

**YES:** Ransom, Hadwick, Arambula, Bains, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-0-3**

**YES:** Wicks, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Caloza, Ellis, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Hoover, Ta, Tangipa

**UPDATED**

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