

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2135 (Kalra) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 14 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires a long-term health care (LTC) facility to provide a resident with a notice of a facility-initiated transfer or discharge at least 30 days before the resident is transferred or discharged. The bill also requires the notice be in an appropriate language and accessible for the vision impaired and increases penalties for violations of transfer requirements.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires an LTC facility to provide a resident with a notice of a facility-initiated transfer or discharge at least 30 days before the resident is transferred or discharged, except as provided in item 2, below.
- 2) Requires an LTC facility to provide a notice at least 14 days before a resident is transferred or discharged in any of the following circumstances: (a) the health and safety of individuals in the facility would be endangered, (b) the resident's health has improved sufficiently to allow a more immediate transfer or discharge, or (c) the resident has not resided in the facility for 30 days.
- 3) Requires a notice of transfer meet specified requirements related to language and accessibility for the blind and vision impaired.
- 4) Makes a failure to comply with the above requirements a class "B" violation, and failure to provide accessible notices subject to a \$1,000 penalty.
- 5) Requires the notice of transfer or discharge to be signed by the resident or their representative and by a facility staff member who declares they delivered the notice to the resident or the resident's representative, and makes knowingly making a false verification regarding the delivery of a notice of transfer or discharge a willful violation.
- 6) Authorizes the Department of Public Health (CDPH) to prohibit the admission of new residents to a LTC facility that improperly transfers, discharges, or refuses to readmit a resident, as specified.
- 7) Increases penalties CDPH is authorized to assess for failure of an LTC facility to comply with a hearing decision to \$1,000 for each calendar day the facility fails to comply with a hearing decision, up to \$100,000 for a single hearing decision.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Costs of an unknown, but likely minor and absorbable amount, to CDPH.

No costs to the Department of Justice and the Department of Health Care Services.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR). According to the author:

Long-Term Care Ombudsmen and other resident advocates have long warned about evictions as one of the most common, urgent, and threatening issues that residents of nursing homes frequently encounter. [This bill] strengthens protections for nursing home residents facing eviction by requiring clear, timely, and verifiable discharge notices in a language and format residents understand. It addresses gaps that allow facilities to issue inadequate notice, avoid oversight, and prioritize profit over care, while improving enforcement to ensure wrongfully discharged residents are readmitted.

- 2) **Background.** Since 2018, California nursing homes have received more than 2,500 federal deficiencies related to improper discharge practices. In federal fiscal year 2025, California's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program received 1,518 complaints related to nursing home discharges and evictions.

Federal data show 16% of California skilled nursing facility residents request an interpreter/translator. Additionally, 22% of residents are vision-impaired, and 33% require corrective lenses that would require their discharge notices to be in an accessible format such as large print or braille.

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