
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2204 (Gabriel) - Prisons: organized sports programming

Version: June 11, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2204 would establish the Second Chance Sports Act and would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to establish a policy on organized sports programming at facilities operated by CDCR. The bill would establish the Second Chance Sports Fund and would require the Government Operations (Gov Ops) Agency to seek advisement from the Legislature and CDCR on the priorities for utilizing the moneys.

Fiscal Impact: Moderate to significant costs to CDCR to establish the Second Chance Sports Act (General Fund).

Unknown annual costs to CDCR and the Gov Ops Agency to establish and operate organized sports programming (private).

Background: CDCR currently provides physical education and recreation programs at each institution under existing regulations, which authorize incarcerated persons to participate in athletic activities with outside organizations subject to institutional approval.

Proposed Law: By July 1, 2027, CDCR shall establish a policy on organized sports programming at facilities operated by CDCR. The policy shall consider:

- (A) The safety of incarcerated persons, correctional line staff, and other participants.
- (B) The appropriate use of state resources and facilities by incarcerated persons.
- (C) Eligibility requirements for participation.
- (D) Any broader impacts on public safety.

Moneys deposited into the Second Chance Sports Fund would be available upon appropriation and approval of the Gov Ops Agency. The funds shall supplement, not replace, existing funding and no more than five percent of the moneys shall be used for administrative purposes.

Staff Comments: Any and all funds received by the state for any purpose should be available for appropriation by the Legislature.

It is unclear if the five percent cap on administrative expenses applies to the Gov Ops Agency or to the programs administered by CDCR in the Second Chance Sports Act.

Fund balance reporting is the responsibility of the Controller's Office or the administering department.

Proposed Author Amendments: The author has suspense file amendments which make technical and clarifying policy changes to the bill.

Recommended Amendments: Amend Penal Code 3112 to read:

3112. (a) The Second Chance Sports Fund is hereby established within the State Treasury.

(b) Moneys deposited into the fund shall be available, upon ~~appropriation and~~ approval by the Government Operations Agency pursuant to subdivision (c), to the department to support the expansion of organized sports programming at facilities operated by the department.

(c) The agency shall seek advisement from the Legislature and the department on the priorities for utilizing the moneys made available pursuant to this section and shall approve the uses of the moneys.

(d) The fund may receive moneys from any source, including private donations.

(e) The moneys in the fund shall supplement, not replace, existing funding for the programming described in this chapter.

(f) Not more than 5 percent of the moneys made available pursuant to this section shall be utilized *by the agency and the department* for administrative purposes.

(g) (1) On or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the ~~Treasurer~~ *State Controller* shall provide a report to the Legislature on the amounts deposited into the fund.

(g) (2) *Moneys in the fund shall be available upon appropriation by Legislature.*

(2) A report submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.