
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2217 (Zbur) - Criminal procedure: alternatives to arrest

Version: May 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2217 would establish the Alternatives to Arrest (ATA) pilot program as the successor to the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot program.

Fiscal Impact: Program administrative costs of up to \$750,000 and technical assistance consultation costs of up to \$112,5000 based on an appropriation of \$15 million for grants. (General Fund)

Background: The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) was established by SB 843 (Budget and Fiscal Review) Chapter 33/2016 to improve public safety and reduce recidivism by increasing the availability and use of social service resources while reducing costs to law enforcement agencies and courts stemming from repeated incarceration. The LEAD pilot programs were structured around the following principles:

- 1) Providing intensive case management services and an individually tailored intervention plan that acts as a blueprint for assisting LEAD participants.
- 2) Prioritizing temporary and permanent housing that includes individualized supportive services, without preconditions of drug or alcohol treatment or abstinence from drugs or alcohol.
- 3) Employing human and social service resources in coordination with law enforcement in a manner that improves individual outcomes and community safety and promotes community wellness.
- 4) Participation in LEAD services shall be voluntary throughout the duration of the program and shall not require abstinence from drug or alcohol use as a condition of continued participation

Proposed Law: This bill establishes the ATA pilot program as the successor to the LEAD pilot program, as follows:

Specifies that an ATA program principle is employing human and social service resources that prioritize addressing unmanaged mental illness and substance use and navigating people into housing in a manner that improves individual outcomes and promotes community wellness.

Requires the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to award a grant to the public health agency administering qualifying programs in the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles, in addition to the requirement to award grants, on a competitive basis, as well as other jurisdictions.

Requires the BSCC to take into consideration leadership by a public health or behavioral agency, as well as a jurisdiction's capacity and commitment to coordinate public health, for purposes of the requirement that BSCC take into consideration certain criteria when establishing standards, schedules, and procedures for awarding grants.

Expands the ability of law enforcement officers to make social contact referrals to an ATA program.

Modifies the offenses eligible for prebooking diversion and removes specified offenses from eligibility for social contact referral.

Specifies that the authorization for grant funding to be used to support training and technical assistance from experts in the implementation of LEAD includes the implementation of similar or complementary programs.

Requires the BSCC, on or before September 1, 2031, to submit a report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the ATA program, as specified.

Specifies that the BSCC may also spend a portion of the funds appropriated for contracts with experts on the implementation and evaluation of ATA or similar programs in other jurisdictions for the purpose of providing technical assistance.

Staff Comments: The FY 2026-27 Budget did not contain an appropriation for the ATA program.