

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2237 (Patterson) – As Amended April 23, 2026

Policy Committee:	Public Safety	Vote:	3 - 2
	Public Safety		9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes a court to extend misdemeanor probation for an offender required to register as a sex offender beyond the current one-year probation limit, not to exceed a total probationary period of two years, to allow for the offender to complete an approved sex offender management program; but requires the period of time exceeding the one-year limit to be terminated by the court once the program is completed.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Unknown, potentially minor to moderate costs to county probation departments (local costs) for continued supervision of offenders whose probation is extended by up to one year under this bill. Probation supervision costs are borne by county general funds and are potentially reimbursable as a state-mandated local program.
- 2) Unknown, potentially minor costs to trial courts (Trial Court Trust Fund) for additional hearings on petitions to extend probation and for other probationary review hearings that would occur during the extended supervision period. According to the Judicial Council, additional court workload would be minor.
- 3) Unknown cost pressure on county jails. To the extent the bill results in longer probation terms, it increases the likelihood that offenders will violate probation and be incarcerated in county jail — even for technical violations that are not criminal offenses. These county jail costs are not reimbursable state mandates but place additional pressure on the General Fund to provide funding to alleviate jail overcrowding. The bill provides that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that it contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement shall be made pursuant to existing statutory provisions.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Protecting our communities must remain a top priority. AB 2237 strengthens accountability for individuals convicted of serious sex offenses by ensuring stronger oversight and longer supervision after release. Current law recognizes the seriousness of these crimes through registration requirements, but AB 2237 closes gaps by improving monitoring and reinforcing safeguarding that help prevent repeat

offenses. AB 2237 is about putting the safety of California communities first and ensuring that those committing these crimes are held accountable.

- 2) **Background.** AB 1950 (Kamlager), Chapter 328, Statutes of 2020, limited felony probation to two years and misdemeanor probation to one year, with exceptions for violent felonies and offenses with specific probation lengths. The bill's sponsor, the Chief Probation Officers of California, argues that AB 1950's two-year cap shifted probation from an evidence-based model to a time-based model, limiting the time available to complete statutorily required sex offender treatment programs. This bill applies to offenders ordered to register under Penal Code Section 290(c), which governs discretionary registration — cases where the court determines registration is warranted based on the circumstances of the offense, as opposed to mandatory registration under Section 290(b) for enumerated sex offenses. Because the 290(c) population is a subset of all sex offense probationers, the number of individuals affected by this bill is relatively small. Existing law requires sex offenders who must register under Section 290 to complete an approved sex offender management treatment program; the probation period may end before this requirement is met.
- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1816 (Davies) authorizes courts to extend probation by up to one additional year for an offender granted probation and ordered to register as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code Section 290(c), where the probation department files a petition and the court finds that the defendant has not successfully completed probation and additional time is necessary to complete programming. The bill is pending on the Assembly floor.

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