
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2318 (Elhawary) - Law enforcement: facilitating medical care

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2318 would prohibit a law enforcement officer from denying, delaying, obstructing, or failing to facilitate access to medical evaluation and treatment for an individual under law enforcement control.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact: : Potential costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative work for state law enforcement entities. The fiscal impact is difficult to quantify due to the capacity for administrative, civil or criminal penalties for any failure to comply with the provisions of the bill. Written documentation within 72-hours each time an officer delays or denies access to medical care may equate into thousands of new reports annually, expanded review, storage and oversight systems that likely would result in a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative work. Likely greater impacts on local law enforcement entities. Penalty and reporting costs for each instance will likely be low, but costs could be significant in the aggregate statewide, with actual costs dependent on whether the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (special funds, General Fund)

Potentially significant costs to the California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to the extent the curriculum update triggers additional training hours that agencies claim for reimbursement. The Peace Officer Training Fund (POTF) has a structural deficit as criminal fine and penalty assessment collections have declined, and POST's operations are increasingly supported by General Fund appropriations. (Peace Officers Training Fund, General Fund)

Minor and absorbable costs to POST to incorporate the new guidance into existing training curricula. POST reports that California peace officers are already required to render first aid in use-of-force situations under existing law and POST guidelines, and that the bill is largely duplicative of existing requirements. (General Fund)

Minor and absorbable costs to the Office of the Inspector General to review law enforcement conduct. (General Fund)

Costs of an unknown but likely minor and ongoing amount for local law enforcement agencies to prepare the required 72-hour documentation in cases where access to medical care is denied or delayed while a medical professional is present, subject to the bill's investigation- and safety-based disclosure carve-out. The volume of work depends on how frequently denial or delay occurs in practice. Costs will depend on whether the

duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate, as determined by the Commission on State Mandates. (General Fund)

Author Amendments:

- Strike provisions excluding individuals in the custody of or detained in a county jail or state prison, and instead make provisions inapplicable to individuals in the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- Delete the requirement that the Attorney General review reporting of law enforcement conduct, as specified.

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