

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2405 (Gipson) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee:	Emergency Management	Vote:	5 - 1
	Public Safety		7 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a law enforcement agency transporting a person to an emergency department to provide transport to the nearest appropriate emergency department.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires a local or state law enforcement agency providing emergency transport to transport the person to the nearest appropriate emergency department, which means the licensed general acute care hospital emergency department that is the closest, geographically or by time, to where the peace officer first assumed custody of the individual, exclusive of transports involving trauma or other specialty conditions.
- 2) Requires each law enforcement agency to submit a quarterly report to the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) containing certain information about law enforcement emergency transports, such as the origin location of the transported person and stated rationale for destination selection, and requires EMSA to publish aggregate reports annually on EMSA’s website.
- 3) Requires EMSA to have regulatory oversight authority to ensure compliance with these provisions, and authorizes EMSA to conduct audits, require corrective action plans, and impose administrative civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per pattern of violation.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Costs of an unknown amount to state law enforcement agencies to update emergency transport practices, to the extent existing practices differ from this bill’s requirements, and submit quarterly reports to EMSA (special fund).
- 2) By requiring a local law enforcement agency to update emergency transport practices and submit quarterly reports to EMSA, this bill may create a state-mandated local program. If the Commission on State Mandates determines the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service for which the state must reimburse local costs, the local agency could seek reimbursement from the state (General Fund (GF)). The magnitude of costs may exceed \$150,000 across the 58 county sheriff departments and hundreds of city police departments in California.
- 3) Costs of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, to EMSA to ensure compliance with these provisions (GF).

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of GF structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

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

AB 2405 ensures some of the most vulnerable Californians receive timely emergency care by aligning law enforcement transport practices with established EMS standards and promoting fairness across our healthcare system. This change is in the best interest of vulnerable patients who need access to emergency care as well as resource-constrained community hospitals who are overwhelmed by drop-offs from law enforcement agents.

- 4) **Emergency Transport.** Existing law requires a local emergency medical services agency plan to require that a patient be transported to the closest appropriate medical facility if the emergency health care needs of the patient dictate such a course of action. However, these requirements do not generally cover transport by law enforcement officers, such as police and sheriff deputies. While ambulance transfer is the preferred and standard mode of patient transfer to a hospital, a law enforcement officer may occasionally transport an individual needing care directly in a patrol vehicle. This most often occurs during emergency situations, when delays in transport are likely to worsen patient outcomes and reduce survival rates, such as after severe trauma, mass casualty, or large disaster incidents. In such situations, a responding peace officer must make a rapid, high-stakes decision about whether transporting the patient immediately is preferable to waiting for EMS.

This bill requires transport by a law enforcement agency to an emergency department be to the nearest appropriate emergency department. To ensure compliance, this bill requires each law enforcement agency to submit quarterly emergency transport reports to EMSA and grants EMSA regulatory oversight authority, including the power to conduct audits, require corrective action plans, and impose civil penalties for violations.

- 2) **Support and Opposition.** This bill is supported by hospital entities, with MLK Community Hospital arguing:

Across California, hospitals like MLK Community Hospital routinely receive individuals transported by local law enforcement agencies from far outside their service areas, despite the presence of closer, capable emergency departments. This practice worsens overcrowding and creates dangerous delays in care in already overburdened safety-net hospitals.

This bill is opposed by law enforcement associations, with the California Police Chiefs Association arguing:

Officers frequently transport individuals experiencing acute mental health episodes, substance-induced psychosis, or violent behavior. In these cases, officer safety, hospital security capabilities, and prior

coordination with specific facilities are critical considerations that go well beyond geographic proximity.

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