
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2434 (Bonta) - Inmates: visitation

Version: May 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 2434 would prohibit a person sentenced to imprisonment in a state prison from being prevented from receiving personal visits

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

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

Fiscal Impact: Costs, possibly in the millions of dollars annually, for staffing for expanded visiting hours, processing visitation re-applications, and managing the revised search process, as required by this bill. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) also anticipates possible one-time costs for infrastructure improvements for some family visiting facilities. Additional significant, ongoing costs to CDCR to handle legal challenges arising from denial of visitation (General Fund).

Author Amendments: Define “Credible security threat” as a specific, articulable, and documented facts that establish a reasonable belief that a visitor or incarcerated person presents an immediate and identifiable risk of introducing contraband, facilitating escape, or causing physical harm within the facility. A credible security threat shall be based on objective information, including reliable intelligence, direct observation, or verified evidence, and shall not be based solely on generalized safety concerns, institutional convenience, anonymous or uncorroborated allegations, personal characteristics, protected traits, prior criminal history unrelated to institutional or visitor safety or security, refusal to consent to a voluntary search, or the mere existence of a past rule violation unless the circumstances of that violation create a safety or security risk to other visitors or incarcerated individuals or institutional security.

Committee Amendments: Delete the provision prohibiting a facility from denying, revoking, limiting, or interfering with visitation based on specified characteristics, whether actual or perceived, of a person in custody or a prospective visitor.

Delete the provision requiring a facility to allow all visits with an incarcerated person to be contact visits unless the incarcerated person is housed in a restricted housing unit.

Delete the provision allowing a facility to limit an incarcerated person housed in a restricted housing unit to noncontact visits only for the duration of that placement.

Delete the provision requiring a facility to restore contact visiting immediately upon the incarcerated person’s return to a nonrestricted housing unit.

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