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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Senator Henry Stern**

**Chair**

**2025 - 2026 Regular**

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**Bill No:** AB 2475 **Hearing Date:** 6/30/2026  
**Author:** Committee on Emergency Management  
**Version:** 5/18/2026 Amended  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Cassie Royce

**SUBJECT:** Standardized emergency management system

**SUMMARY:** Revises state and local agency after-action reporting requirements following a declared emergency.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Designates the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) under the California Emergency Services Act as the lead state agency responsible for state emergency response to natural, technological, or man-made disasters, as specified.
- 2) Authorizes the Governor to declare a state of emergency (SOE) and local officials and local governments to declare a local emergency when specified conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist, and allows the Governor or the appropriate local government to exercise certain powers in response to that emergency.
- 3) Establishes the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) for managing multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional responses to emergencies in California and requires state agencies to use SEMS and local government to use SEMS to be eligible for any reimbursement of response-related costs, as specified.
- 4) Requires Cal OES to, within 180 days after each declared disaster, complete an after-action report (AAR) in cooperation with involved state and local agencies, that includes a review of the public safety response and disaster recovery activities and conclusions and recommendations based on findings.

- 5) Provides that Cal OES shall make the report available to all interested public safety and emergency management organizations.

This bill:

- 1) Directs Cal OES to complete an AAR, in cooperation with involved local and state agencies, that reviews the public safety response of a declared emergency, as specified, within the first 180 days of the declaration of the SOE, instead of within 180 days after each declared disaster.
- 2) Requires Cal OES to complete a second AAR, in cooperation with involved local and state agencies, that reviews disaster recovery activities, as specified, no later than 180 days after a declaration of a SOE ends, instead of as part of the single AAR in 1) above.
- 3) Requires Cal OES to annually draft written updates related to the recovery activities until the second recovery-focused AAR is completed, as specified, and to publish a public version of the AARs required by this bill, as specified.
- 4) Provides that Cal OES shall send both the AARs and any related recovery updates to the Legislature, as specified.
- 5) Requires a local government, as specified, to complete an AAR that contains specified information, in cooperation with involved local and state agencies, no later than 120 days after a local emergency is declared for which the Governor has also declared a SOE, and to share the report with Cal OES and all other interested public safety and emergency management organizations.
- 6) Specifies the local AAR required by this bill constitutes the AAR required by related state regulations requiring local AARs to be completed and transmitted to Cal OES within 90 days of the close of the incident period.

## Background

*Author's statement.* According to the author, "The reporting deadline for Cal OES after-action reports is open to interpretation in current law. Current law states after-action reports are due "within 180 days after each declared disaster." Cal OES interprets this due date to mean within 180 days after a disaster declaration ends. However, some disaster declarations, or state of emergencies, can last over a decade. For example, on March 24, 2026, Governor Newsom signed a proclamation ending 18 open state of emergencies that were originally proclaimed in the years of 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022. While some of these emergencies already have an associated, published after-action report, several do not (but should within 180 days). Furthermore, there are currently 52 open state of

emergency declarations, going back as far as December of 2022. It is important to note that many of these emergency declarations have valid reasons for being left open for many years, including lengthy recovery periods, state and federal funding eligibility, and more. Yet when state of emergency declarations can last years, the state – including local emergency managers on the front lines of disaster response – is left waiting for answers that would likely be useful for mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from future disasters.

This bill is attempting to solve this issue by splitting the current after-action report into two separate reports: a response focused report and a recovery focused report. These are the two topics required in statewide after-action reports by law, including associated conclusions and recommendations. This bill will functionally leave the report due date for recovery information unchanged, clarifying this report is due 180 days after a disaster declaration ends. However, the response report would now be due within the first 180 days of the disaster declaration. Furthermore, this bill requires annual recovery updates from Cal OES until the recovery after-action report is completed. It also codifies requirements for local level after-action reports.”

AARs. The completion of AARs are a required part of SEMS, the state framework used to standardize emergency response involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies. Following a declared disaster, Cal OES gathers information and data from the various stakeholders involved. The information is then used to complete a state-level AAR that documents response activities, lessons learned, best practices, areas needing improvement, and an analysis of the effectiveness of SEMS in the incident. Information received from state and local agencies is used to determine additional resource needs or training opportunities to address risks early and maintain disaster response at the lowest level possible. The AAR provides a vehicle for documenting system improvements and a work plan for implementing these improvements.

According to Cal OES, the number of jurisdictions, complexity, and duration of disasters influence the magnitude of data collected and the length of time it takes to complete an AAR. Cal OES lists 24 AARs currently in progress on its website.

### **Prior/Related Legislation**

AB 3267 (Smith), Chapter 260, Statutes of 2020, extends the number of days that OES must complete an AAR from 120 days to 180 days after each declared disaster.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

**SUPPORT:**

None on file

**OPPOSITION:**

None on file