
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2598 (Krell) - Health care facilities: notification of next of kin

Version: June 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 11 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2598 would require that if a person dies in a general acute care hospital or a skilled nursing facility, the person in charge of the hospital or facility or their designee must make a reasonable attempt to notify any known next of kin that the person died in the hospital or facility.

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

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

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing costs, likely low hundreds of thousands, for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to verify facility compliance with the updated next of kin requirements, investigate complaints, and conduct administrative proceedings (Licensing and Certification Fund).
- Unknown, potential workload costs to the courts related to enforcement of civil penalties (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund). While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to increase the amount appropriated for trial court operations.

Author Amendments: Clarify that requirements to notify any known next of kin do not apply to the death of an incarcerated individual in the custody of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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