
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Becker, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 262

Author: Caloza

Version: June 22, 2026

Urgency: No

Consultant: Naima Ford Antal

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Fiscal: Yes

Subject: California Housing and Homelessness Agency: PINK Alert

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Housing and Homelessness Agency to create a study on issues impacting pregnant people experiencing homelessness and recommendations on establishing a PINK Alert system.

ABSTRACT

Existing Law:

- 1) Defines a “homeless person” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; an individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements; an individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided; unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth; and an individual that will imminently lose their housing. (*42 United States Code [USC] 11302(a)*)
- 2) Establishes an Emergency Alert System, which has been nicknamed the “Amber Alert” system, which may be activated if a law enforcement agency receives a report that an abduction has occurred or that a child has been taken by anyone, including a custodial parent or guardian, and the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death, and there is information available that, if disseminated to the general public, could assist in the safe recovery of the victim, as specified. (*Government Code [GOV] 8594*)
- 3) Establishes a “Silver Alert” system designed to issue and coordinate alerts with respect to a person who is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled, or cognitively impaired, and who is reported missing. (*GOV 8594.10*)

- 4) Establishes a “Feather Alert” system designed to issue and coordinate alerts with respect to endangered indigenous people, specifically indigenous women, who are reported missing. (*GOV 8594.13*)
- 5) Requires the Governor to create an Interagency Council on Homelessness (*WIC 8257 et seq.*)
- 6) States that a report shall not be distributed to a Member of the Legislature unless specifically requested by that Member. (*GOV 9795 (b)*)

This Bill:

- 1) Requires the California Housing and Homelessness Agency to create a study on issues impacting pregnant people experiencing homelessness.
- 2) Requires the California Housing and Homelessness Agency to report the results of the study described above and make recommendations on establishing a PINK Alert system to the Legislature by July 1, 2028.
- 3) Requires the PINK Alert recommendations to include, but not be limited to, whether the alert system can do the following:
 - a. Allow nonprofits to opt into the system to get notifications if there is a pregnant person in need of emergency housing or prenatal services.
 - b. Notify nonprofit housing shelters, temporary housing, or overnight housing shelters that are capable of housing pregnant people about an emergency.
 - c. Be a program that can be registered for.
 - d. Automatically enroll organizations that are already a part of emergency services.
- 4) Requires the report to be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis was on a prior version of this bill. This bill was gutted and amended after that analysis was completed.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**Purpose of the Bill:**

According to the author, “Pregnant women experiencing homelessness face some of the greatest barriers to care, yet California lacks the data needed to effectively support them. AB 262 helps close that gap by identifying where needs are greatest and where resources are falling short. With

better information, we can drive meaningful action and lay the foundation for a statewide hotline and alert system that connects expectant mothers to lifesaving services, care, and support when they need it most.”

California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH)

Cal-ICH was created in 2021 by AB 1220 (*Rivas, Chapter 398*) as a successor to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to address the coordination and oversight of homelessness programs. The bill also made changes to the membership of Cal-ICH and provided Cal-ICH with additional authority to access information from other departments. To ensure Cal-ICH has access to information about homelessness programs throughout state agencies, Cal-ICH is allowed to require state departments that have homelessness programs to participate in Cal-ICH workgroups or other collaborative work. They can also require those departments or agencies to provide Cal-ICH data on those programs. Unlike the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, Cal-ICH also requires department directors, agency secretaries, and executive directors to participate on the council rather than their representatives.

In addition to improving coordination between agencies, Cal-ICH is also charged with coordinating existing and competitive funding for homelessness initiatives, finding new funding initiatives, making policy recommendations, brokering agreements between state agencies, increasing accountability, creating reports for the Governor and Legislature, and creating a statewide database for local homelessness data. Cal-ICH is housed in the California Department of Housing and Homelessness, which also houses other housing-related departments.

Data on Pregnancy and Homelessness in California

Most homelessness data stems from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time Count. Annually, HUD directs local community Continuums of Care to conduct a Point in Time Count of people experiencing homelessness in January, and includes people experiencing homelessness who are “sheltered” (living in temporary shelters) and those who are “unsheltered,” or living out in the open or in places not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (*i.e.*, the street, vehicles, or parks). The Point in Time Count is required by HUD as a condition of receiving federal funding.

California also uses the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) to gather data on the needs of people experiencing homelessness and changing demographics. The HDIS is a compilation of data reported by Continuums of Care to their county Homelessness Management Information Systems about the services they have provided to people experiencing homelessness. This means HDIS data is limited only to what is provided by service providers who use the Homelessness Management Information System. Potential gaps include providers to the 110 federally recognized Tribes and domestic violence victims, because they are not required to use the system. Despite the potential gaps in data, California is the only state to create such a data warehouse based on Homelessness Management Information System data. The advantages of using this warehouse of data includes its ability to show “patterns of service usage across

geographic regions and support[s] efforts to identify and address racial and other inequalities among people experiencing homelessness.”¹

Neither of these systems extract and report data on pregnant people who are homeless. In 2024 the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative published a report on pregnancy and homelessness based on data gathered through its California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness. The study found that both “pregnancy and the post-partum period increase the risk of experiencing homelessness; [and] homelessness increases the risk of becoming pregnant”.² The study also found that experiencing unsheltered homelessness increased the risks of unplanned pregnancy and the health risks associated with pregnancy without prenatal care. The report recommended Continuums of Care and other homelessness system leaders create coordinated entry and prioritization tools that help pregnant people gain rapid access to non-congregate shelter or other appropriate housing resources, similar to what exists for families with children.

This bill would require the California Housing and Homelessness Agency to study the risks and needs of pregnant people experiencing homelessness in California and study how a PINK alert system could create a higher level of coordination among homeless resource providers to support pregnant people.

2-1-1 System

The Federal Communications Commission designated 2-1-1 in 2000 as the number to obtain information and referrals to health and human services programs. In response to the Federal Communications Commission establishing 2-1-1, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued Decision 03-02-029 in 2002. This decision determined that 2-1-1 services were to be rolled out by counties and created administrative procedures for implementing 2-1-1 dialing in California. In order to be able to provide information and referral services, organizations must apply to the CPUC for authority to receive calls from the 2-1-1 code. In 2003, Los Angeles became the first county to be granted such authority. Since then, the CPUC has authorized 2-1-1 dialing services in 53 of California’s 58 counties, covering 99.3% of California’s population.

Most of the calls to the 2-1-1 network are from people looking for help to meet their basic needs such as food, housing, and transportation. During emergencies and natural disasters, 2-1-1 also provides critical public information, including information on shelters, evacuations, food distribution, utility outages, and road closures.

Emergency Alerts

The nation’s first Amber alert was established in 1996. The alert was named after the after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped and brutally murdered while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas that same year. The alert system was intended to help inform local residents to

¹ California Interagency Council on Homelessness' Statewide Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California. December 2024.

² Kushel, M., Dones, M., Espinoza, M., Perry, E. (2024). Topic Brief: Pregnancy and Homelessness in the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness. UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative

search for a child who was abducted nearby. Amber is an acronym for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.³

Amber alerts were initially issued over broadcasting channels designed to alert residents of dangerous weather events, but since then they have grown to include highway billboard signs, text messages and other notification methods. Although the federal government does not have direct control over the system, several federal agencies have urged states to implement it. The U.S. Department of Justice created an Amber Alert page and issued guidance to states to establish criteria before issuing an alert, including that the victim be at risk of serious bodily injury or death, a sufficient description to be informative, and that law enforcement must confirm there was an abduction, among others.⁴ California began the Amber Alert as a regional program in 1999, and it was adopted statewide in 2002 (*AB 415, Runner*). The California Highway Patrol is responsible for statewide coordination of the Amber Alert system.

In 2012, California established the Silver Alert program to coordinate communication after the unexplained or suspicious disappearance of an elderly person. The system is intended to provide immediate attention to the public about the missing person, including photographs, descriptions and information about the last time and location they were seen. The program is coordinated by the California Highway Patrol, which will issue an alert only if the missing person is 65 years or older, the investigating agency has used all of its resources and determines that the missing person disappeared under suspicious or unexplained circumstances and the local law enforcement agency believes the person is in danger. The California Highway Patrol also must determine that if the information was disseminated to the public, it could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

This bill would require the California Housing and Homelessness Agency to study how a PINK Alert for pregnant people experiencing homelessness could coordinate housing, prenatal, and emergency medical services quickly to help this population.

Related/Prior Legislation:

SB 673 AB 1314 (Ramos, Chapter 476, Statutes 2022) authorizes a law enforcement agency to request the Department of the California Highway Patrol to activate a "Feather Alert," if specified criteria are satisfied with respect to an endangered indigenous person who has been reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.

AB 1220 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 398, Statutes 2021) created the California Interagency Council to coordinate state homelessness resources and programming.

COMMENTS

This bill will require the California Housing and Homeless Agency to conduct studies and develop recommendations regarding challenges faced by pregnant people who are homeless and the support systems that are available to them. Pregnancy and postpartum recovery are physically

³ <http://ojp.gov/newsroom/pdfs/amberchronology.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.amberalert.gov/guidelines.htm>

demanding times in a person's life and can easily become life-threatening without proper care. Studies have shown that pregnancy can also make a person vulnerable to homelessness if they do not have stable housing before getting pregnant. Since pregnant people are a small part of the homeless population and collecting information on pregnancy is not required, there is not much data on the size, demographics, or services being utilized by them. This bill would require that information to be collected. It would also require a report on implementation of recommendations for an emergency hotline and alert system that would support pregnant people experiencing homelessness called a PINK Alert.

This bill would create a unique alert system because it is not for a missing person, but seeks to locate needed resources for a person, similar to the 2-1-1 system. The author may want to specify whether the PINK Alert would be information sent to the public and emergency personnel about a missing pregnant person in need like other alert systems or sharing information about a pregnant person experiencing homelessness in need with organizations and public agencies that can help. The author may also want to consider requiring the California Housing and Homelessness Agency to give recommendations about what criteria should be issued to issue an alert and how to obtain the pregnant person's consent and maintain their privacy when services are requested.

PRIOR VOTES

This bill was gutted and amended on May 27, 2026. All of the prior votes are based on the bill before it was gutted and amended.

Assembly Floor:	63 - 11
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	11 - 3
Assembly Emergency Management Committee:	5 - 2

POSITIONS

Support:

CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
 California Alliance of Child and Family Services
 California Catholic Conference
 Sofesa

Oppose:

None received

-- END --