
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2684 (Nguyen) - Juveniles: nonminor dependents: out-of-state placement: visitation

Version: May 19, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0, PUB. S. 6 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: Yes

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2684 would require a social worker or probation officer to allow nonminor dependents who are placed out of state the option to have their monthly visit through a virtual visit, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates absorbable costs for convening the working group to develop implementation guidelines.
- Unknown costs to counties for administration. Some costs could be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates. For other potential costs, Proposition 30 of 2012 provides that any legislation enacted after September 30, 2012 that has an overall effect of increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for realigned services applies to local agencies only to the extent that the state provides annual funding for the cost increase.

Background:

Extended Foster Care. State law permits foster youth to remain in extended foster care until age 21, consistent with federal law. At the six-month hearing prior to a youth turning 18 years old, the youth's social worker or probation officer must submit a transitional living plan to ensure that the youth will meet at least one specified participation criteria if the youth plans to participate in extended foster care. The youth must also sign an agreement to remain in foster care within six months of turning 18, reside in an eligible placement, and agree to work with their social worker to meet the goals of their transitional living plan. Additionally, existing law allows qualifying nonminors who are former foster youth under the age of 21 to petition the court for re-entry into foster care to participate in extended foster care.

Social Worker/Probation Officer Monthly Visits. State law requires monthly visits by a county social worker or county probation officer to foster children. When a county social worker or probation officer makes a regular visit with a foster child, the regular visit must include a private discussion between the foster child and the social worker or probation officer. The social worker or probation officer must advise the foster child that he or she has the right to request that the private discussion occur outside the foster home. If a foster child requests to have the private discussion outside the foster home, that private discussion cannot replace the visit in the foster home. However, the social

worker or probation officer cannot be required to schedule an additional visit to accommodate the request. The contents of the private discussion cannot be disclosed, except as provided. No more than two consecutive monthly visits may be held outside the residence of the foster child. If the visit does not occur in the place of residence, the social worker or probation officer must document in the case file and in the court report the location of the visit and the reason for the visit occurring outside the place of residence. Recent changes in federal law allow virtual monthly visits for nonminor dependents who consent to virtual visits.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require a social worker or probation officer to allow nonminor dependents who are placed out of state the option to have their monthly visit through a virtual visit, as specified.
- Require that if the nonminor dependent makes a request to change a planned virtual visit to an in-person visit at least five business days prior to the scheduled visit, the social worker or probation officer must perform an in-person visit instead of the planned virtual visit; and require the social worker or probation officer to accommodate the request for an in-person visit as soon as possible, as specified.
- Allow the social worker or probation officer to shift a virtual visit to an in-person visit if the social worker or probation officer has any concerns regarding the safety or well-being of the nonminor dependent.
- Require the social worker or probation officer to, at minimum, conduct an in-person visit with the nonminor dependent on a quarterly basis.
- Provide that these provisions do not apply to a nonminor dependent placed in an out-of-state residential facility pursuant to California's Interstate Compact on Placement of Children law.
- Require CDSS, no later than July 1, 2027, to convene a working group to develop guidelines for county placing agencies and attorneys representing nonminor dependents related to engaging and supporting nonminor dependents who are placed out of state.

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