
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senator María Elena Durazo, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2760
Author: Sharp-Collins
Version: 3/19/26

Hearing Date: 6/23/26
Fiscal: No
Consultant: Peterson

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: INSPECTOR GENERAL

Allows an inspector general to assist the county board of supervisors with oversight of the chief probation officer and department of animal control.

Background

County governance. Counties fall into two types: “general law” and “charter.” General law counties are organized according to the generally applicable laws for county governance established by the Legislature that set the number, appointment, and election procedures for county officials, including the board of supervisors.

Charter counties have greater leeway to determine their own governance structure, including to elect additional supervisors, appoint or elect additional officers, and select the length of their terms. A new charter, or the amendment of an existing charter, may be proposed by the board of supervisors, a charter commission, or an initiative petition. There are 14 charter counties: Alameda, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tehama. Most large counties are charter counties: eight of the ten largest counties by population have adopted charters.

All counties elect or appoint a variety of county officials. The California Constitution requires all counties to elect a sheriff, district attorney, assessor, and board of supervisors, and state law lists the officers general law counties must have. State law gives county boards of supervisors the authority to consolidate the duties of certain county offices by ordinance. Other county offices may be elected or appointed, like the public defender.

Duties of sheriff and coroner. Sheriffs have three primary duties: (1) police unincorporated areas, (2) operate the county jail, and (3) attend to and execute orders of the courts. In large counties, they manage thousands of employees, including both sworn peace officers and other non-sworn staff.

The county coroner is tasked with determining the circumstances, cause, and manner of certain deaths—such as deaths that are violent, sudden, or unusual, or potentially stem from criminal activity. Regardless of whether a county has a medical examiner, separate coroner, or sheriff-coroner, a medical professional always performs the forensic autopsy to determine the cause of death.

The board of supervisors in a county can enact an ordinance to consolidate the sheriff and coroner into a single elected office. Whether combined or separate offices, the sheriff and coroner must both be elected unless voters in that county allow for an appointed coroner.

However, the board can, by ordinance, abolish the office of coroner and instead appoint a medical examiner to carry out the coroner's duties. A medical examiner must be a licensed physician and surgeon specializing in pathology.

Other public safety offices. Counties typically have other law enforcement officials. For example, all 58 counties have a chief probation officer. Chief probation officers provide community supervision of offenders and offer post-release rehabilitation services to offenders under their care. Counties also have responsibility for ensuring the public health and safety issues related to animals in the county. In some counties, county public health departments carry out some of these public safety responsibilities. Other counties have animal control departments, some of them are run by the sheriff (such as in San Joaquin County) while others are separate county departments (such as in Los Angeles County).

Board oversight. County boards of supervisors generally supervise the official conduct of all county officers, including sheriffs. However, their oversight cannot obstruct investigative functions of the sheriff or district attorney. County boards or voters can create a civilian oversight board to assist with the board's supervisory duties. The board of supervisors appoints the civilian oversight board's membership. County boards or voters can also create an inspector general's office. Whether the county has a civilian oversight board or an inspector general, those offices generally have subpoena power and access to peace officer records.

While state law allows counties to create inspectors general to assist with the supervisory duties over the sheriff's office, state law does not grant inspectors general the authority to oversee chief probation officers or animal control departments. The author wants to grant inspectors general this authority.

Proposed Law

Assembly Bill 2760 allows a county to have its inspector general assist the county board of supervisors with oversight of the chief probation officer and department of animal control.

Comments

1. **Purpose of the bill.** According to the author, "AB 2760 is about crafting public safety that reflects the full scope of systems that shape people's lives, beyond policing, including probation and animal control agencies that exercise authority with limited oversight. This bill takes a necessary step toward transparency and accountability by bringing these agencies under the independent review of the Office of Inspector General. At a time when Californians are demanding a more just and equitable system, AB 2760 ensures that oversight keeps pace with power, strengthens public trust, and moves us closer to an accountable public safety system."

2. **Why not?** Some counties already have an inspector general to provide oversight over the sheriff's office. AB 2760 allows a county to expand this oversight to cover probation and animal control. In the case of county probation offices, there are already various layers of oversight. According to the Chief Probation Officers of California, who oppose the measure, "Under existing law and practice Probation departments serve both the county governance structure and Board of Supervisors, and as an arm of the court. There is significant authority and inspection obligations covering juvenile facilities such as that held by the Board of State and Community Corrections, Juvenile Justice Commission, the grand jury, departments of public health, fire

marshal, environmental health, and the [Office of Youth and Community Restoration] OYCR ombudsperson.”

3. Incoming! The Senate Rules Committee has ordered a double referral of AB 2760: first to the Committee on Public Safety, which approved the bill at its June 16th hearing on a vote of 5-1, and second to the Committee on Local Government.

Assembly Actions

Assembly Public Safety Committee:

6-0

Assembly Floor:

51-7

Support and Opposition (6/19/2026)

Support: Paloma Aguirre, Supervisor, County of San Diego
Monica Montgomery Steppe, Supervisor, County of San Diego
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Pillars of the Community
The David's Harp Foundation
One individual

Opposition: Chief Probation Officers' of California (CPOC)
Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

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