
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 308 (Ramos) - Developmental services: safety training

Version: June 8, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 308 would require the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to conduct a statewide evaluation of safety training services provided by regional centers.

Fiscal Impact:

- The DDS estimates costs of \$129,000 (\$103,000 General Fund and \$26,000 federal funds) in 2026-27; \$258,000 (\$206,000 General Fund and \$52,000 federal funds) in each of years 2027–28 and 2028–29; and \$129,000 (\$103,000 General Fund and \$26,000 federal funds) in 2029–30 for state administration.

The DDS indicates that during the first two years, the department would conduct the assessment and evaluation of regional centers and develop the report for submission to the Legislature. If the Legislature subsequently provides funding for the development, implementation, and ongoing support of statewide safety training services, the remaining two years would be dedicated to advancing the next phase of establishing these services at the regional centers.

- Unknown General Fund cost pressures to provide funding to develop, implement, and sustain safety training services statewide.

Background: Current law establishes the Advisory Council on Improving Interactions between People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Law Enforcement (Advisory Council) to evaluate existing training and identify gaps in training for peace officers specific to interactions with the intellectually and developmentally disabled community and with individuals with mental health disorders. In April 2026, the Advisory Council released its report.

According to the report, law enforcement is the default responder in most California jurisdictions when a person is experiencing a mental health crisis or when caregivers or others are unable to manage behaviors related to intellectual or developmental disability. Several historical factors, including the de-institutionalization of mental health services and insufficient investment in community-based services to meet community needs, have resulted in greater policing in the mental health care system. The report included several recommendations related to data collection and research, crisis response models and other systems interventions, and training. One of the recommendations in the report would require DDS to determine which regional centers have a safety training service, assess the cost of developing such a service at the regional centers that do not yet have one, and report back to the Legislature.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Define “safety training services” to mean a structured service or program designed to increase an individual’s ability to safely navigate community settings and emergency situations, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - Safe interaction with peace officers, first responders, and emergency personnel.
 - Wandering and elopement prevention strategies.
 - Emergency preparedness and response, including recognizing and responding to fire, medical, and public safety emergencies.
 - Strategies for seeking help, including identifying safe individuals and locations.
 - Use of communication tools and techniques to effectively convey needs and information in high-stress or crisis situations, including augmentative and alternative communication, as appropriate.
 - Development of individualized safety plans based on the needs and preferences of the individual.
- Require DDS to conduct a statewide evaluation of safety training services provided by regional centers.
- Require DDS to submit a report to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2028, including recommendations for all of the following:
 - Reducing unnecessary law enforcement involvement and hospitalizations through preventive services, including safety training services delivered through regional centers.
 - Establishing standardized, statewide protocols for responding to crises involving individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
 - Integrating safety training services into the individualized program planning process to reduce crisis incidence and improve outcomes.
- State the intent of the Legislature to, upon receipt and review of the report, consider a one-time appropriation, and any necessary ongoing funding, to the department for the purpose of developing, implementing, and sustaining safety training services statewide, including the provision of technical assistance to regional centers and service providers.

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