
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 653 (Lackey) - Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches

Version: May 23, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: July 14, 2025

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: AB 653 designates talent agents, managers, and coaches working with minors as mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate additional crimes. Defendants are constitutionally guaranteed certain rights during criminal proceedings, including the right to a jury trial and the right to counsel (at public expense if the defendants are unable to afford the costs of representation). The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the numbers of people charged with an offense and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. This is a conservative estimate, based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. 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 fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.
- Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds) to the counties to incarcerate an additional category of people who are required, but may fail to report. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail varies by county, but likely ranges from \$70,000 to \$90,000 per year. For example, in 2021, Los Angeles County budgeted \$1.3 billion for jail spending, including \$89,580 per incarcerated person. Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

Background: Current law makes it mandatory for people working in certain professions to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, including teachers, social workers, peace officers, physicians, and clergy members, among many others listed in Penal Code section 11165.7. Such people are referred to as “mandatory reporters.” A mandated reporter may make a report of abuse or neglect to a police or sheriff’s department, county probation department, or county welfare department.

A mandatory reporter's failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail, a fine of \$1,000, or by both imprisonment and a fine.

Proposed Law: Adds talent agents, managers, and coaches who work with minors to the list of mandated reporters in Penal Code section 11165.7.

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