
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 653
Author: Lackey (R) and Blanca Rubio (D), et al.
Amended: 9/4/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 7/1/25
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Gonzalez, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/4/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches

SOURCE: 11:11 Media Impact

DIGEST: This bill makes talent agents, talent managers, and talent coaches working with minors mandated reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA).

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/4/25 double joint this bill with SB 402 (Valladeres) and SB 848 (Perez) to avoid chaptering out issues.

ANALYSIS:

Existing Law:

- 1) Establishes CANRA and states that the intent and purpose of the Act is to protect children from abuse and neglect. (Penal (Pen.) Code, § 11164.)
- 2) Defines "child" under CANRA to mean person under the age of 18 years. (Pen. Code, § 11165.)

- 3) Defines "child abuse or neglect" under CANRA to include physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse as defined, neglect as defined, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child as defined, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 11165.6.)
- 4) Enumerates close to 50 categories of mandatory child abuse reporters. Specific occupations that are mandated reporters include, but are not limited to, teachers, athletic coaches, social workers, peace officers, firefighters, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, emergency medical technicians, licensed family therapists, child visitation monitors, and clergy. (Pen. Code, § 11165.7, subd. (a).)
- 5) Requires a mandated reporter to make a report to a specified agency whenever the mandated reporter, in their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect to report that incident immediately to a specified child protection agency by telephone, and further requires a written report be sent within 36 hours. (Pen. Code, § 11166, subd. (a).)
- 6) States that, unless otherwise specifically provided, the absence of training shall not excuse a mandated reporter from the duties imposed by the CANRA. (Pen. Code, § 11165.7, subd. (f).)
- 7) Makes it a misdemeanor for a mandated reporter to fail to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the CANRA. The offense is punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of \$1,000, or by both. (Pen. Code, § 11166, subd. (c).)
- 8) States that if a mandated reporter intentionally conceals his or her failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect, the failure to report is a continuing offense until a specified agency discovers the offense. (Pen. Code, § 11166, subd. (c).)

This bill adds talent agents, talent managers, or talent coaches providing services to a minor to the list of mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.

Background

California's mandated reporter statutes require that certain individuals who, in a professional capacity or within the scope of employment, have knowledge of or

observe a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect to make an immediate report to a law enforcement agency, as specified. The statute defines what constitutes reasonable suspicion and lists 49 specific categories of employees that are defined as mandated reporters, including teachers, coaches, child care workers, social workers and probation officers, firefighters, specific medical personnel, commercial film and photographic image processors, and others. It requires that mandated reporters be trained about their responsibilities and duties to report, including specifying that the first report must be made by telephone and a subsequent written report must be made within 36 hours of receiving information about the incident. (Pen. Code, §§ 11165.7 & 11166.) The penalty for a mandated reporter who fails to report an incident in a timely manner is up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. (Pen. Code, § 11166, subd. (c).)

This bill makes an individual employed as a talent agent, talent manager, or talent coach who provides services to a minor a mandated reporter under CANRA.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

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.

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).

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/4/25)

11:11 Media Impact (source)

Arcadia Police Officers' Association

Association of Talent Agents

Brea Police Association

Burbank Police Officers' Association

California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance

California Association of School Police Chiefs

California Coalition of School Safety Professionals

California Narcotic Officers' Association

California Reserve Peace Officers Association

Claremont Police Officers Association

Corona Police Officers Association

Culver City Police Officers' Association

Fullerton Police Officers' Association

Los Angeles School Police Management Association

Los Angeles School Police Officers Association

Murrieta Police Officers' Association

National Association of Voice Actors

Newport Beach Police Association

Palos Verdes Police Officers Association

Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association

Pomona Police Officers' Association

Riverside Police Officers Association

Riverside Sheriffs' Association

SAG-AFTRA

Unsilenced

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/4/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to 11:11 Media Impact:

California has long led the nation in child protection laws, including an extensive list of professionals required to report suspected child abuse. Yet, notably absent from this list are key figures in the entertainment industry—despite their regular and often unsupervised interactions with children.

Children working in entertainment face unique vulnerabilities: long hours, high-pressure environments, and close interactions with adults in positions of power. In recent years, a growing number of former child performers have bravely come forward with stories of abuse. A common thread among them is the absence of a trusted adult who was obligated to intervene or report the abuse.

AB 653 helps change that. By adding talent agents, managers, and coaches to the roster of mandated reporters, California can ensure that these professionals are legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect—offering children in entertainment another critical layer of protection.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/4/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bennett, Lee

Prepared by: Sandy Uribe / PUB. S. /
9/8/25 21:18:46

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