
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1157 (Archuleta) - Juveniles: secure youth treatment facilities: less restrictive programs

Version: April 22, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1157 would require the Judicial Council of California (JCC) to develop and adopt guidelines to assist the court in determining whether a particular less restrictive program of confinement for a ward of the court who is 14 years of age or older is an appropriate placement for a ward.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, estimated cost one time ranging between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to contract for consulting and a limited term attorney to develop and adopt the required guidelines (Trial Court Trust Fund).

Unknown, potential future year savings to the extent the guidelines increase the court's efficiency when making ward placement decisions.

Proposed Law: Welfare and Institutions Code 877 is added, to read:

(a) By January 1, 2028, Judicial Council shall develop and adopt guidelines to assist the court in determining whether a particular less restrictive program, as described in subdivision (f) of Section 875, is an appropriate placement for a ward.

(b) The guidelines shall direct the court to, at a minimum, consider all of the following:

(1) Whether and what type of insurance coverage a program is required to possess.

(2) The type of training a program's staff has received.

(3) Whether a residential program has conducted a criminal background check of prospective employees, if not already required to do so by law.

(4) Whether a program has demonstrated ability to address the risk needs of wards being transferred to the less restrictive program from a secure youth treatment facility.

(5) Whether a program has provided proof of notice to the city and county in which it operates.

(6) Whether a program utilizing residential facilities meets state and local zoning and land use requirements for residential facilities.

Staff Comments: Not all information needed to develop the guidelines is in the possession of the JCC nor is that information readily accessible. To the extent the JCC contracts with consultants, there will be added costs. Those costs are difficult to estimate currently.