
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1261 (Laird) - Aging and Disability Resource Connection program

Version: February 19, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1261 would make changes to the operation of Aging and Disability Resource Connection programs under specified circumstances.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown potential General Fund costs for the California Department of Aging (CDA) for state administration.

Background: Current law establishes the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program, administered by CDA, to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs at the local level. Area agencies on aging and independent living centers jointly operate ADRCs and must be the core local partners in developing ADRC programs. The CDA must assist interested and qualified area agencies on aging and independent living centers in completing an application to be designated as an ADRC program.

An ADRC program operated by an area agency on aging and an independent living center must provide all of the following:

- Enhanced information and referral services and other assistance at hours that are convenient for the public.
- Options counseling concerning available LTSS programs and public and private benefits programs.
- Short-term service coordination.
- Transition services from hospitals to home and from skilled nursing facilities to the community.

An ADRC program operated by an area agency on aging and an independent living center must do both of the following:

- Provide services within the geographic area served.
- Provide information to the public about the services provided by the program.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Prohibit CDA from revoking the designation of an ADRC program solely due to the revocation of a designation, suspension, or temporary inability of either the area agency on aging or the independent living center partner to serve in its operator role; and provide that in those circumstances, either the area agency on aging or the independent living center may continue to operate the ADRC independently during a transition period of not less than one year and not more than two years, upon agreement of the CDA, the Department of Rehabilitation, and the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee, while a new or replacement partner is identified and designated.
- Require that during the transition period described above, the services provided by the ADRC must continue without interruption, and joint operation must be reestablished upon designation of the replacement partner that serves older adults or is a peer-led disability organization.

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