Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 1261 (Laird) – As Amended May 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Aging and Long Term Care Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits the California Department of Aging (CDA) from revoking the designation of an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program solely due to the revocation or voluntary termination of a designation of either the area agency on aging (AAA) or the independent living center (ILC) partner to serve in its operator role. The bill authorizes, in those circumstances, the remaining AAA or ILC to continue to operate the ADRC independently during a transition period.

Proposed amendments add an urgency clause at the request of the author.

Specifically, this bill:

1) Prohibits CDA from revoking the designation of an ADRC program solely due to the revocation or voluntary termination of a designation, suspension, or temporary inability of either the AAA or the ILC partner to serve in its operator role, and provides that in those circumstances, either the AAA or the ILC 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 CDA, the Department of Rehabilitation, and the ADRC Advisory Committee, while a new or replacement partner is identified and designated.

2) Requires, during the transition period described above, the services provided by the ADRC to continue without interruption, and joint operation be reestablished upon designation of the replacement partner that serves older adults or is a peer-led disability organization.

FISCAL EFFECT:

CDA indicates negligible administrative costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

> [This bill] ensures continuation of essential aging and disability services by allowing ADRCs to continue operations even if an AAA or ILC partner can no longer serve in its operator role. In doing so, this bill keeps the doors open, including for ARDCs serving San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, and ensures no one falls through the cracks during transitions where a new partner must be

> established. Older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers rely on ADRCs as trusted places to turn for help. We cannot allow services to disappear simply because of an administrative transition.

This bill is sponsored by the California Association of AAAs and the California Foundation for ILCs and is supported by a coalition of aging and disability services advocates as well as the Counties of Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Ventura. There is no known opposition.

2) **Background.** ***AAAs and ILCs.*** CDA contracts with and provides leadership and direction to 33 AAAs, most of them nonprofits, that coordinate a wide array of services to seniors and adults with disabilities at the community level and serve as the focal point for local aging concerns. Each county is required to have an AAA, but not all counties have a stand-alone AAA. Some AAAs represent multiple counties. Overseen by DOR, ILCs are nonresidential nonprofit entities created and run by individuals with disabilities to help individuals with disabilities lead independent lives within a local community. There are 28 ILCs in the state.

ADRCs. Existing law establishes the ADRC program, administered by CDA, to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports programs at the local level. ADRCs act as a "no wrong door" system to provide a single coordinated system to connect individuals to the resources they need regardless of age, income, or disability. AAAs and ILCs jointly operate ADRCs and existing law requires every ADRC to include both an AAA and ILC as core partners. The law requires CDA assist interested and qualified AAAs and ILCs in completing an application to be designated as an ADRC program. Not all AAAs or ILCs offer ADRC services.

Service Disruptions. According to the author and sponsors, the AAA serving San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties is undergoing a transition that will result in the loss of its designation. They assert, because ADRCs must legally operate in partnership with an AAA, the ADRC serving these communities would be forced to close—even though community members continue to rely on its services every day. Similar changes to AAA or ILC designations in other regions could trigger the same outcome for ADRCs elsewhere in the state.

This bill prevents service disruption in the above situations by allowing an ADRC to continue operating for up to two years if its AAA or ILC can no longer serve in its operator role. When a new partner is in place, full joint operation of the ADRC must be reestablished.

The state provides an annual $10 million General Fund appropriation, administered by CDA, to the nearly two dozen designated ADRCs throughout the state to provide services. This bill does not disrupt the flow of funding.

Master Plan for Aging (MPA). California's senior population is growing faster than any other age group. By 2030, over 25% of the population in California will be 60 and older. In January of 2021, the Governor released his MPA, which prioritizes the health and well-being of older Californians and the need for policies that promote healthy aging. This bill advances the goals of the MPA regarding the needs and wellbeing of older Californians.

Analysis Prepared by: Jennifer Swenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081