
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1330 (Arreguín) - Assault and battery: utility workers

Version: February 20, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1330 would increase the punishment for assault and battery committed against a public utility employee or a worker engaged in essential infrastructure work, as defined, while engaged in the performance of their duties.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026**

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, potentially significant cost to the state fund court system to adjudicate criminal penalties created by this bill. 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). Creating new crimes, with increased penalties, could lead to lengthier and more complex court proceedings with attendant workload and resource costs to the court. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknown factors, 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. 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. The Governor's 2026-27 budget proposes \$70 million from the General Fund to help pay for increased trial court operation costs (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Incarceration: Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds, General Fund) to the counties to incarcerate people who are convicted of this offense for a longer period of time. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately \$80,000 per year. Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Although county incarceration costs are generally not considered reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012), overcrowding in county jails creates cost pressure on the General Fund because the state has historically granted new funding to counties to offset overcrowding resulting from 2011 public safety realignment.

Committee Amendments: Amend the definition of utility worker to clarify it applies to utility workers performing construction, installation or maintenance of water, electrical or gas infrastructure.

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