

Date of Hearing: August 27, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 957 (Pérez) – As Amended August 25, 2026

Policy Committee:	Privacy and Consumer Protection	Vote:	vote not relevant
	Judiciary		vote not relevant
	Judiciary		9 - 3

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Attorney General (AG), with cooperation from the appropriate state entity as directed by the Governor, develop an oversight plan to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons detained in private civil detention facilities.

More specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires the AG, on or before December 31, 2027, submit to the Legislature a report that includes a proposed oversight plan that protects the health, safety, and welfare of persons detained in private civil detention facilities.
- 2) Requires the AG, in developing the oversight plan, consider applicable federal and state laws and, at a minimum, the health care and conditions of detention in private civil detention facilities.
- 3) Requires the oversight plan propose requirements for private civil detention facilities that are comparable to requirements for facilities currently under the oversight of state agencies and departments and to consider the populations private civil detention facilities hold and how such facilities operate.
- 4) Authorizes the AG to make other recommendations necessary to implement the oversight plan.
- 5) Requires the Governor or the Governor's designee to direct the appropriate state agency, department, board, or commission to cooperate with the AG for the purposes of developing the oversight plan described in item 1, above, as specified.
- 6) Requires the AG keep confidential any information received from a state agency that the state agency considers confidential and withhold from public disclosure information that is otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
- 7) Makes the requirement for submitting the report pursuant to item 1, above, inoperative on January 1, 2031.
- 8) Makes findings and declarations regarding (a) the state's interest in protecting individuals in civil detention facilities, (b) guaranteed rights and responsibilities of civil detainees, (c) previously mandated AG reports on the conditions of civil immigration detention facilities, (d) existing state oversight of civil facilities, (e) the absence of oversight of all privately

operated civil detention facilities in the state, and (f) the necessity of the bill's limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies to allow state agencies to freely exchange information and analysis.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Absorbable costs to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Costs of an unknown but likely absorbable amount to the state entity designated by the Governor to cooperate with the AG to develop the oversight plan and report.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Public Counsel, and South Asian Network. According to the author:

Private civil detention facilities, including privately operated immigration facilities, house individuals who depend on these facilities for shelter, food, medical care, and basic safety...The [AG's] review of immigration detention facilities has documented recurring concerns, including inadequate medical and mental healthcare, insufficient suicide prevention protocols, a lack of transparency regarding use-of-force practices, and impacts to due process rights, including the ability to access legal counsel. In a report released earlier this year, the AG found that there were six deaths of detainees between September 2025 and March 2026. These concerns are increasingly urgent as federal immigration enforcement expands, with ICE arresting approximately 582,040 people nationwide over the past year and a half.

While the AG's existing review and reporting authority provides important transparency into conditions within immigration detention facilities, there is not an established ongoing regulatory structure for inspections, compliance, and enforcement at the state level.

- 2) **Background. *Immigration Detention Centers.*** According to reporting in the Los Angeles Times, on October 6, 2025, 64-year-old Masuma Khan appeared for her annual check-in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Instead of completing the routine visit, Ms. Khan, who had lived in the U.S. for 28 years, had no criminal record, and had just recently survived the Eaton fires, was detained by ICE and held at the California City Correctional Facility. Ms. Khan reported that upon her initial detention she was kept in a cold room for a day and denied access to her lawyer and a phone until she signed deportation papers. She was denied access to medications for high blood pressure, asthma, peripheral arterial disease, general anxiety and hyperthyroidism. During her detention, her blood pressure spiked, and she began to experience stroke-like symptoms. After weeks, a federal judge ordered Ms. Khan released.

A recent report from DOJ details many similar stories from the seven private immigration detention centers in California. The report points to six deaths at two facilities that "raise serious concerns about these facilities' ability to safely detain a growing detainee population

and highlight the need for greater accountability and oversight.” The DOJ report identified inadequate mental health care services, with detainees experiencing high rates of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder; increased likelihood of self-harm behavior; and negative changes in self-perception. DOJ also found that problems identified in its 2019 and 2021 reports persisted, and new areas of concern emerged. Key findings include deficient medical recordkeeping at all six facilities, disproportionate use of force against individuals with mental health diagnoses, and failure to conduct mental health reviews required by ICE’s detention standards before imposing discipline or segregation.

Existing Oversight Authority. Existing law requires local health officers (LHOs) to investigate health and sanitary conditions in county jails, publicly operated detention facilities, and private work furlough facilities at least annually. LHOs also have the authority to investigate health and sanitary conditions in a jail or detention facility when requested by the sheriff, chief of police, local legislative body, or the Board of State and Community Corrections.

In response to the first Trump administration, the Legislature approved AB 103 (Committee on Public Safety), Chapter 17, Statutes of 2017, which, among other things, requires the AG to conduct oversight and reviews of private detention facilities in which noncitizens are detained for purposes of civil immigration proceedings. AB 103 required the AG to include in its review: (a) the conditions of confinement, (b) the standard of care and due process provided to the individuals detained, and (c) the circumstances around their apprehension and transfer to the facility; however, this third prong was struck down by the Ninth Circuit Court on the grounds that it violated intergovernmental immunity. The court determined the third prong imposed an unconstitutional burden on the federal government because it was “apparently distinct from any other inspection requirements imposed by California law.”

- 3) **Questionable Necessity and Implementation Concerns.** As noted in the Assembly Judiciary Committee analysis of this bill, “the AG has already engaged in extremely meaningful oversight of the state’s immigration detention facilities” and has been publishing oversight reports on these facilities since 2019. The Judiciary Committee analysis further questions whether the timelines in this bill are achievable, given changes resulting from the upcoming gubernatorial transition.
- 4) **Related Legislation.** SB 942 (Caballero) establishes the Civil Detainees' Bill of Rights Act of 2026 and grants all persons housed or detained for the purposes of civil immigration proceedings in California on behalf of, or pursuant to a contract with, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed all other persons by the U.S. Constitution and federal law and the California Constitution and state law, unless specifically limited by federal or state law or regulation. SB 942 is pending concurrence in Assembly amendments on the Senate Floor.

SB 995 (Pérez) authorizes the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to inspect an involuntary residential facility (IRF) for the purpose of ensuring safe conditions and requires the operator of an IRF to provide access to CDPH for inspection. SB 995 was held on suspense in this committee.

SB 1399 (Durazo) repeals the January 1, 2028, sunset date on statutes requiring the AG to review and report on county, local, or private locked detention facilities in which noncitizens

are being housed or detained for purposes of civil immigration proceedings in California. SB 1399 is pending on the Assembly Floor.

- 5) **Prior Legislation.** SB 1132 (Durazo), Chapter 183, Statutes of 2024, provides that “private detention facilities” are subject to inspection by LHOs.

AB 263 (Arambula), Chapter 294, Statutes of 2021, requires a private detention facility operator to comply with all local and state public health orders and occupational safety and health regulations.

AB 103, (Committee on Public Safety), Chapter 17, Statutes of 2017, as pertinent to this bill, is described above.

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