
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 989 (Blakespear) - Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

Version: April 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 0, JUD. 12 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 989 would provide that a first responder may request the county behavioral health agency to file a petition to commence the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) process, as specified.

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

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

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown costs to county behavioral health agencies for administration. Costs to counties would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.
- Unknown General Fund costs to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), potentially tens of thousands, for state administration to develop a referral form and issue guidance.

Author Amendments: Replace in certain provisions, the term “respondent,” with “individual.”

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