
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 991 (Menjivar) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: categorization of citations

Version: March 23, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 991 would require that when the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) substantiates a violation in a residential care facility for the elderly (RCFE) that constitutes abuse, CDSS must categorize and cite the violation, as specified.

Fiscal Impact: The CDSS estimates General Fund costs of \$777,000 in 2026-27 and \$759,000 ongoing thereafter for state administration.

Background: RCFEs are residential facilities that provide 24-hour nonmedical care and supervision for persons 60 years of age or older. RCFEs provide housing, housekeeping, supervision, and personal care assistance with activities of daily living to individuals who need that level of care. These are nonmedical facilities that are designed for individuals who are unable to live by themselves, but who do not need 24-hour nursing care. Residents of RCFEs may have mental, behavioral, or physical health needs, or a developmental disability that results in their inability to live independently. These facilities range in size from small facilities operating out of single-family homes to larger buildings that can house over 100 residents.

CDSS licenses RCFEs and conducts regular inspections of the facilities to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Violations can result in citations, fines and, in extreme cases, loss of a license to operate a facility.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require that when CDSS substantiates a violation in an RCFE that constitutes abuse, as defined, CDSS must categorize and cite the violation according to the specific type of abuse established by the evidence.
- Require CDSS to categorize and cite the violations as one or more of the following, as applicable and as defined:
 - Physical abuse
 - Abandonment
 - Abduction
 - Financial abuse
 - Isolation
 - Mental suffering

- Neglect
- Undue influence

- Require CDSS to ensure that citations categorized are reflected in any public-facing transparency, licensing, or enforcement databases maintained by the department.

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