

Legislative Summary Report



2025 Legislative Year

**2025 Legislation Affecting the
Department of State Hospitals**

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN
Director, California Department of State Hospitals

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Prepared by:
California Department of State Hospitals
Office of Legislation

Daniel Savino, Assistant Director of Legislation
Kristy Fortes, Legislative Manager
Alexander Dodge, Legislative Analyst
Kristina Zepeda, Legislative Analyst
Madhavi Kennedy, Legislative Analyst

1215 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-654-2316

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of legislation affecting the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) in 2025.

During the first year of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, 2,833 measures were introduced. DSH's Office of Legislation monitored or tracked 329 of those bills and provided final recommendations on seven bills that reached the Governor's desk.

DSH manages the nation's largest inpatient forensic mental health hospital system. Its mission is to provide evaluation and treatment for individuals with complex behavioral health needs in a safe, equitable, and responsible manner, by leading innovation and excellence across a continuum of care. DSH is responsible for the daily care and provision of mental health treatment of over 7,500 patients. DSH oversees five state hospitals (Atascadero, Coalinga, Metropolitan, Napa, and Patton) and employs nearly 13,000 staff. In fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, DSH served over 13,800 patients, with 8,871 served across the state hospitals, 1,995 in Jail-Based Competency Treatment (JBCT), 723 in Community Inpatient Facilities (CIF), 899 in Community Based Restoration (CBR) contracted programs, 567 in Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Diversion contracted programs, and 824 in Conditional Release (CONREP) programs. 11,589 individuals were treated within a DSH inpatient program and 2,290 were served through DSH's outpatient programs. Through Early Access Stabilization Services (EASS) and Re-Evaluation services, during FY 2024-25, DSH initiated services for 3,554 patients in EASS, and off ramped 77 through DSH's Re-Evaluation program. In addition, 28 individuals were diverted from jail into county programs funded by DSH.

For more information about legislation in this report, please click the bill title or contact the Office of Legislation at Legislation@dsh.ca.gov or (916) 654-2316.

For more information about DSH, including the Department's values, vision, mission, or goals, please visit <https://www.dsh.ca.gov>.

ACRONYMS COMMONLY USED

AB	Assembly Bill
Cal-ICH	California Interagency Council on Homelessness
CARE	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CONREP	Conditional Release Program
DCA	Department of Consumer Affairs
DDS	Department of Developmental Services
DGS	Department of General Services
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services
DSH	Department of State Hospitals
DSH-Atascadero	Atascadero State Hospital
DSH-Coalinga	Coalinga State Hospital
DSH-Metropolitan	Metropolitan State Hospital
DSH-Napa	Napa State Hospital
DSH-Patton	Patton State Hospital
EASS	Early Access and Stabilization Services
FY	Fiscal Year
IST	Incompetent to Stand Trial
JBCT	Jail-Based Competency Treatment Program
LPS	Lanterman-Petris-Short Act
NGI	Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity
OMD	Offender with a Mental Health Disorder
OPS	Office of Protective Services
SB	Senate Bill
SVP	Sexually Violent Predator

ENACTED PRIORITY LEGISLATION

This section includes bills directly impacting DSH that were signed into law by the Governor. All bills take effect January 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted.

[AB 91 \(Harabedian, Chapter 357, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - State and local agencies: demographic data

This bill requires state and local agencies that collect demographic data to add new categories for major Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) groups, starting January 1, 2028. It requires this data to be added to demographic reports starting January 1, 2029, and, separately, requires this data to be aggregated and publicly shared.

[AB 1125 \(Nguyen, Chapter 291, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Workers' compensation: peace officers

This bill clarifies that an existing disputable workers' compensation presumption for "heart trouble" for DSH-Atascadero's peace officers applies to all DSH peace officers.

[SB 380 \(Jones, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Sexually violent predators: transitional housing facilities: report

This bill requires DSH to study the option of transitional housing facilities for CONREP-SVP and report the results to the Legislature by January 1, 2027.

Effective Date: October 10, 2025

[SB 660 \(Menjivar, Chapter 325, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework

This bill gives DSH three extra years, until January 2029, to implement data sharing via the Data Exchange Framework (DxF). It also moves the DxF to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and creates operational changes to the DxF and its requirements.

ENACTED BUDGET LEGISLATION

This section includes Budget and Trailer bills that were signed into law by the Governor that are relevant to DSH. All bills take effect on the day they are signed, noted below.

AB 116 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2025) - Health omnibus trailer bill

This bill makes technical fixes to the 2025 Budget for health programs. As it impacts DSH, the bill extends the Enhanced Treatment Program pilot to January 1, 2030, and changes NGI reports from twice to once a year, to be consistent with other long-term patient populations.

Effective Date: June 30, 2025

AB 134 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 10, Statutes of 2025) - Public Safety

This trailer bill covers the public safety portion of the 2025 Budget Act. As it impacts DSH, the bill removes a requirement that DSH consult CDCR when evaluating county proposals for mental health diversion funding.

Effective Date: June 27, 2025

AB 138 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 78, Statutes of 2025) - State employment: state bargaining units

This bill makes necessary statutory changes related to memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the state and Bargaining Units (BU) 2, 13, 16, and 19 and addenda to MOUs (side letters) between the state and BUs 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Effective Date: July 29, 2025

SB 101 (Wiener, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2025) - Budget Act of 2025

This is the Budget Act of 2025. It provides \$3.2 billion for DSH, and includes several specific provisions on reporting, itemized support for the psychiatric technician assistant 20/20 training programs and ligature risk repairs, and an exemption from parts of Public Contract Code for IST waitlist contracts.

Effective Date: June 27, 2025

SB 105 (Wiener, Chapter 104, Statutes of 2025) - Budget Acts of 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025

This bill amends the 2025 Budget Act to incorporate changes resulting from the September 2025 budget package.

Effective Date: September 17, 2025

ADDITIONAL ENACTED LEGISLATION

These bills relate to mental health, public safety, licensing, law enforcement, and general government issues that were signed into law by the Governor and may impact DSH, its contracted treatment providers and facilities, or the individuals it serves. These bills may require DSH compliance with their provisions. All bills take effect January 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted. Bills organized by subject matter.

Commitments and Court Proceedings

AB 348 (Krell, Chapter 688, Statutes of 2025) - Full-service partnerships

This bill expands and clarifies how a person with a serious mental illness can participate in a full-service partnership (FSP). This includes people who are: reentering the community after six months or more in prison, jail, or secured treatment; detained five or more times in the past five years as a danger to themselves or others, or as gravely disabled; or currently experiencing homelessness. A county is not required to enroll an individual if doing so would conflict with Medi-Cal contract obligations or court orders, or if the county lacks sufficient FSP capacity or funding.

AB 651 (Bryan, Chapter 274, Statutes of 2025) - Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent

This bill requires an incarcerated parent to be given notice and opportunity to attend dependency hearings relating to their child. If the parent waives the right to be physically present, they must be given the option to join via videoconference.

AB 848 (Soria, Chapter 625, Statutes of 2025) - Sexual battery

This bill expands the punishments for sexual battery. If a victim is a hospital patient (including a DSH facility, by reference to [PC § 243.2](#)), and the defendant is employed at that hospital, there will be a sentencing enhancement upon conviction.

AB 1036 (Schultz, Chapter 444, Statutes of 2025) - Criminal procedure: postconviction discovery

This bill expands access to post-conviction discovery materials to all individuals convicted of prison-eligible felonies, not just crimes with a 15+ year sentence, and broadens the definition of discovery materials to include any exculpatory/mitigating evidence and jury selection notes.

AB 1071 (Kalra, Chapter 721, Statutes of 2025) - Criminal procedure: discrimination

This bill allows a defendant to seek evidence of possible racial, ethnic, or national origin bias in their case, and requires (instead of allowing) courts to issue remedies for proven bias. The bill also allows a defendant to file a writ of habeas corpus after judgement.

AB 1269 (Bryan, Chapter 726, Statutes of 2025) - County and city jails: incarcerated person contacts

This bill requires a jail to notify anyone covered by a medical release of information within 24 hours of an inmate's death.

Effective Date: October 13, 2025

SB 27 (Umberg, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2025) - Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

This bill makes changes to the CARE Act to change the process and eligibility criteria for the program. Changes include expanding CARE eligibility to include mood disorders with psychotic features; requiring courts to consider a CARE referral for MIST defendants; combining hearings to create greater efficiency in court proceedings; allowing data sharing between CARE partners; expanding participation to additional licensed medical professionals, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants; and clarifying that courts retain oversight and flexibility during CARE plans.

SB 680 (Rubio, Chapter 780, Statutes of 2025) - Sex offender registration: unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor

This bill adds two types of sex with a minor to the sex offender registry list. However, for those two, registration as a sex offender is not required if the adult is less than 10 years older than the minor.

SB 820 (Stern, Chapter 330, Statutes of 2025) - Inmates: mental health

This bill allows, until January 1, 2030, involuntary medication orders (IMOs) for individuals found IST on misdemeanor charges. This aligns with IMO authority for other circumstances.

Employment

AB 268 (Kalra, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025) - State holidays: Diwali

This bill adds "Diwali" to the list of state and observed judicial holidays and lets state employees choose to take that day off using accrued leave.

AB 538 (Berman, Chapter 616, Statutes of 2025) - Public works: payroll records

This bill expands public access to payroll records for public works. It requires, when a request is made to an awarding body that does not have those records, that body to request the records from the contractor. It also authorizes the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to withhold the contractor's progress payments for failure to comply within 10 days.

AB 889 (Hadwick, Chapter 626, Statutes of 2025) - Prevailing wage: per diem wages

This bill revises the annualization rule for fringe benefits on both public and private construction projects, including DSH projects. It requires that all employer

payments not made directly to the worker be annualized and eliminates the Department of Industrial Relations' ability to waive annualization.

AB 1029 (Valencia, Chapter 85, Statutes of 2025) - Statements of financial interest: digital financial assets

This bill requires public officials to disclose digital financial assets on their statement of economics interests if decisions made by the agency's officials could materially affect the asset.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027

AB 1067 (Quirk-Silva, Chapter 388, Statutes of 2025) - Public employees' retirement: felony convictions

This bill requires public employers, including DSH, to continue investigating employee misconduct related to official duties, appointments, or benefits even after an employee retires. Before closing an investigation, employers must refer the matter to law enforcement. If the employee is convicted of a felony, they lose pension rights and benefits.

SB 294 (Reyes, Chapter 667, Statutes of 2025) - The Workplace Know Your Rights Act

This bill requires employers to give employees an annual notice explaining their rights under state and federal law. The bill establishes penalties for employers who do not comply. The Labor Commissioner must create a notice template and informational videos for employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities. If an employee authorizes it, employers must contact the employees' emergency contact if the employee is arrested or detained at work.

SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas, Chapter 216, Statutes of 2025) - Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination

This bill states that an employee's acknowledgment or discussion of personal bias, as part of a bias mitigation training, is not unlawful discrimination.

SB 464 (Smallwood-Cuevas, Chapter 760, Statutes of 2025) - Employer pay data

This bill requires private employers to separately collect, store, and annually report employee demographic and pay data, including a separate report for labor contractor hires. The bill also expands the required job categories in the pay data report. Separate reports are required for labor contractor hires. The bill does not apply to DSH but will apply to contracted programs/hospitals.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027

[SB 521 \(Gonzalez, Chapter 92, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Public employment: disqualification

This bill expands disqualification from public employment to include conflict of interest felonies. Also disqualifies any city manager or attorney who is convicted of such crimes from any future public employment in equivalent roles.

[SB 590 \(Durazo, Chapter 772, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Paid family leave: eligibility: care for designated persons

This bill creates a family temporary disability insurance program that provides wage replacement to workers to care for a seriously ill family member or designated person, to bond with a fostered or adopted child within one year of the birth or placement, or urgent need due to a family member's active military duty.

Effective Date: July 1, 2028

[SB 642 \(Limón, Chapter 468, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Employment: payment of wages

This bill revises the Equal Pay Act by changing the definition of "pay scale" for job post requirements, increasing the amount of time a person can file a lawsuit for wage violations, and clarifying circumstances that justify violation relief.

Hospitals and Workforce

[AB 50 \(Bonta, Chapter 135, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Pharmacists: furnishing contraceptives

This bill adds over-the-counter contraceptives to the existing mandate on pharmacists providing various drugs but exempts them from the standard protocols required by the Board of Pharmacy and Medical Board of California for prescription-only self-administered hormonal contraceptives, which include a self-screening tool and factsheet on the drug.

Effective Date: September 26, 2025.

[AB 82 \(Ward, Chapter 679, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Health care: legally protected health care activity

This bill expands health care safe haven protections. It prohibits the reporting of testosterone and mifepristone prescriptions to California's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and requires bail be set at zero dollars for anyone arrested in another state for aiding in a legally protected health care activity.

[AB 583 \(Pellerin, Chapter 271, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Death certificates

This bill allows a last-attending nurse practitioner (NP) to complete death certificates and required notifications.

[AB 849 \(Soria, Chapter 442, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Health providers: medical chaperones

This bill requires clinics, general acute care hospitals, and providers not licensed by the Department of Public Health, to inform patients that a medical chaperone is

available, upon request, to be present during ultrasound examinations. DSH is not included in the definition of provider.

Effective Date: January 1, 2027

[SB 81 \(Arreguin, Chapter 123, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Health and care facilities: information sharing

This bill adds immigration status to the definition of medical information. It also prohibits a health care provider, unless required by law, from granting access to the nonpublic areas of the facility to immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant or court order.

Effective Date: September 20, 2025

[SB 497 \(Wiener, Chapter 764, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Legally protected health care activity

This bill prohibits health care providers from releasing medical information related to gender-affirming care or from sharing Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) data with out of state law enforcement without a warrant, subpoena, or court order.

Effective Date: October 13, 2025

[SB 504 \(Laird, Chapter 766, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Communicable diseases: HIV reporting

This bill allows a health care provider for a patient with an HIV infection to disclose patient information with local health authorities or the state for public health work reasons.

[SB 596 \(Menjivar, Chapter 773, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Health facilities: administrative penalties

For acute psychiatric facilities, excluding DSH, this specifies that violations of staffing ratios on separate days will be treated as separate violations.

[SB 775 \(Ashby, Chapter 787, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Board of Psychology and Board of Behavioral Sciences

This bill extends the sunset, until January 2030, for the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) and Board of Psychology (BOP) and makes various changes to the regulation of BBS and BOP licensees and registrants.

Law Enforcement

[AB 463 \(Rodriguez, Michelle, Chapter 98, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Emergency medical services: dogs and cats

This bill lets ambulances take an injured police or search and rescue dog to a veterinary clinic if nobody else needs medical transport or attention at that time.

AB 992 (Irwin, Chapter 175, Statutes of 2025) - Peace officers

This bill requires a peace officer, beginning January 2031, to meet new education standards within 36 months of receiving a Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) basic certificate. This can also be done by eight years of either military or out-of-state law enforcement experience. This bill specifically exempts DSH peace officers.

AB 1388 (Bryan, Chapter 729, Statutes of 2025) - Law enforcement: settlement agreements

This bill prohibits settlements between law enforcement agencies and peace officers that require the agency to destroy or conceal records of misconduct investigations and make those (now-prohibited) agreements subject to the Public Records Act.

SB 447 (Umberg, Chapter 653, Statutes of 2025) - Workers' compensation: death benefits

This bill raises the maximum age, from 21 to 26 years old, for dependent children of certain firefighters/police officers to receive workers' compensation death benefit health coverage.

SB 524 (Arrequin, Chapter 587, Statutes of 2025) - Law enforcement agencies: artificial intelligence

This bill requires law enforcement agencies to disclose when artificial intelligence is used to prepare reports.

SB 627 (Wiener, Chapter 125, Statutes of 2025) - Law enforcement: masks

This bill prohibits police from wearing face coverings, with some limited exceptions. This does not include peace officers employed by the State of California.

SB 805 (Perez, Chapter 126, Statutes of 2025) - Crimes

This bill requires on-duty law enforcement officers to wear ID except during undercover work, urgent situations, or safety risks.

Effective Date: September 20, 2025

Operations

AB 370 (Carrillo, Chapter 34, Statutes of 2025) - California Public Records

Act: cyberattacks

This bill adds cyberattacks to the "unusual circumstances" that give state agencies extra time to respond to a public records request.

[AB 678 \(Lee, Chapter 495, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Interagency Council on Homelessness

This bill requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CA-ICH), of which the DSH Director is a member, to identify policies for inclusive and culturally competent services for LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness.

[AB 1114 \(Avila Farias, Chapter 87, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Emergency vehicles: fee and toll exemptions

This bill exempts vehicles displaying exempt license plates and ambulances from tolls or related fines.

[SB 470 \(Laird, Chapter 222, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing

This bill extends the sunset date allowing meetings of state bodies to be open to the public via teleconferencing to January 1, 2030.

[SB 580 \(Durazo, Chapter 670, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Attorney General: immigration enforcement policies

This bill requires the Attorney General to develop a policy on interaction with immigration authorities and requires all state agencies to adopt the policy.

[SB 582 \(Stern, Chapter 546, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Health and care facilities: licensing during emergencies or disasters

This bill requires various care facilities, including Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), to update their external disaster and mass causality program plans annually and to consult with county, regional, and local planning offices when developing or revising those plans. It also establishes licensing policies for facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services, California Department of Public Health, or California Department of Health Care Services during state or federally declared emergencies or disasters.

Miscellaneous

[SB 857 \(Committee on Public Safety, Chapter 241, Statutes of 2025\)](#) - Public safety omnibus

This bill makes technical updates to various code sections related to criminal justice laws.

VETOED LEGISLATION

These bills relate to mental health, public safety, and general government issues that would have impacted DSH, but were vetoed by the Governor.

AB 393 (Connolly) - Personal services contracts: state employees: physician and psychologist positions

This bill would have required DSH and CDCR complete cost analyses before contracting to fill physician or psychologist positions and hire civil service employees if cheaper. The bill would have also required DSH and CDCR to report to the Legislature the number of analyses conducted and contractors hired.

AB 400 (Pacheco) - Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training: police canines

This bill would have required the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to study and give recommendations to the Legislature on the use of police dogs.

AB 766 (Sharp-Collins) - State agencies and departments: strategic plans: diversity, equity, and inclusion

This bill would have required strategic plans to be developed/updated to reflect the use of data analysis and inclusive practices to more effectively advance racial equity and to respond to identified disparities.

AB 1136 (Ortega) - Employment: immigration and work authorization

This bill would have required employers to provide up to five days of unpaid leave for employees to attend immigration-related appointments or legal proceedings and prioritize rehiring the individual upon return to work. This bill would have applied to the state as an employer.

AB 1387 (Quirk-Silva) - Behavioral health multidisciplinary personnel team.

This bill would have allowed counties to create a behavioral health multidisciplinary personnel team (MDT) to connect justice-involved persons to county supportive services upon release from jail. The bill would have also allowed more patient information sharing.