

October 31, 2025

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

D-2025-Legislation-003

What to Know

This directive explains a new law that Governor Newsom approved in 2025. It affects regional centers, services, and/or the Department of Developmental Services (Department). Unless otherwise stated, the changes will start on January 1, 2026.

What's Changing

AB 91 (Harabedian) – State and local agencies must include certain categories when they collect data about people's backgrounds. This starts January 1, 2028. They must share the combined data they collect. AB 91 also prevents a state or local agency from sharing personal details about anyone.

AB 251 (Kalra) – AB 251 allows, in certain elder or dependent adult abuse or neglect cases brought against residential care facilities for the elderly, community care facilities, and skilled nursing facilities, a court to lower the burden of proof if the court finds that the facility intentionally destroyed, hid, or altered evidence.

AB 341 (Arambula) – AB 341 requires the Department to contract with dental schools or colleges. This happens once it gets funding from the Legislature. The Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program aims to improve dental care for people. The goal is to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities get dental treatment. Its focus is to avoid using sedation and general anesthesia during treatment.

AB 815 (Ortega) – The law says that car insurance will not have to change to commercial or for-hire. It's for people that use their own cars to give rides to people with disabilities. This is for public social

services.

AB 951 (Ta) – California health plans and insurers can't force people with autism to get a new diagnosis. They also can't force people with developmental conditions to get a new diagnosis. They can continue their behavioral health treatment.

AB 992 (Irwin) – As of January 1, 2031, California peace officers must earn certain degrees or certificates. They have 36 months from their basic POST certification to earn them. They may receive an excuse if they meet certain standards.

AB 1076 (Addis) – AB 1076 lets the CalABLE Board accept gifts, grants, and funds from laws. The funds can help people with disabilities learn to open or grow their CalABLE accounts. It also allows the Franchise Tax Board to let taxpayers put part of their refund into a CalABLE account.

AB 1172 (Nguyen) – Allows trained staff and approved volunteers to give emergency seizure medication through the nose during a seizure. It is for licensed adult day programs or care homes. The Department of Social Services will set standards by January 1, 2028. They will name organizations for training. The facilities must have a seizure action plan. The plan must have written approval for non-medical staff to give out medication. They must ensure volunteers know their rights. Volunteers must also know their legal protections. Volunteers and trainers are safe from legal problems if they act in good faith.

AB 1318 (Bonta) – AB 1318 lets more nonprofits get state contract and grants. It lets nonprofits that do not have to pay California state income tax qualify.

AB 1412 (J. Gonzalez) – AB 1412 says school agencies must use a student's current individualized education program (IEP). They can also make a new one within 30 days of receiving records. Schools can take unofficial records from parents or guardians. They should do this until the official ones are confirmed. This helps prevent service delays. The bill makes it easier for military dependents to transfer schools.

SB 258 (Wahab) – SB 258 modifies California law. It removes the spousal exception for rape. If a spouse has sex with their partner who cannot legally consent because of a mental, developmental or physical condition, it is a crime.

SB 470 (Laird) – SB 470 extends the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. It will take effect from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030. The Act outlines rules for public meetings by state entities. It also has rules for teleconferencing and remote meetings.

SB 471 (Menjivar) – As of October 1, 2025, an independent Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson is within the Department. It will oversee all programs. Such as, the Self-Determination Program, Early Start, and the Lanterman Act. The Office's duties include tracking and looking into complaints. It includes providing trainings, information and monitor services for people with developmental disabilities. It will also make system wide suggestions. The law protects the privacy of people who contact the Office.

Questions?

Please contact your regional center service coordinator with questions about how these changes could affect your services.

Learn More

Please see the full D-2025-Legislation-003 directive online here:
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/regional-center-directives/>.