

Date of Hearing: May 10, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair
AB 532 (Waldron) – As Amended April 27, 2017

Policy Committee:	Health	Vote:	14 - 0
	Public Safety		7 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes specified mental health and addiction treatment services to women who are charged in specified, non-felony complaints, and requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on the operation of any such programs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs to the Administrative Office of the Courts to report to the Legislature, in the range of \$50,000 (GF).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill attempts to close a gap in behavioral health services available to women who have been incarcerated. The author states many of these services already exist on a state, federal or local level but there is a need to align the services and make them accessible.
- 2) **Background.** Many counties have established collaborative justice courts, which include drug courts, domestic violence courts, youth courts, community courts, veterans' courts and others. Drug courts are specially designed court calendars that provide an alternative to traditional criminal justice prosecution for non-violent drug-related offenses, while mental health courts are a type of problem-solving court that combines judicial supervision with community mental health treatment and other support services.

Existing law does not preclude courts from offering the behavioral health services specified in the bill. This bill, however, would require Judicial Council to collect data from each county and collate the data into a report to the Legislature, with respect to what behavioral health services are offered to women.

Analysis Prepared by: Lisa Murawski / APPR. / (916) 319-2081