



## Judicial Council of California

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# MEMORANDUM

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**Date**

May 22, 2026

**Action Requested**

For Your Information

**To**

Hon. Patricia Guerrero  
Chief Justice of California

**Deadline**

N/A

**From**

Cory T. Jasperson, Director  
Governmental Affairs

**Contact**

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**Subject**

Status of 2026 Legislation Considered by the  
Legislation Committee

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The following is the status report on 2026 legislation considered by the Judicial Council's Legislation Committee so far during the 2025–2026 legislative session. The bills are listed in numerical order by house (Assembly and Senate) and indexed by subject matter. The second column, Bill No. (Author), Description and Updates, summarizes the relevant provisions and the version of the bill on which the Legislation Committee's position is based. The third column, Judicial Council Position, tracks the council's initial position and any subsequent change to that position. Because you and Justice Corrigan have recused yourselves from taking part in deliberations or discussions of any electronic recording issues that may come before the Judicial Council, the status chart does not include any actions taken by the Legislation Committee on behalf of the council concerning Assembly Bill 882 (Papan) Electronic court reporting.

The text of all versions of a bill, committee analyses, vote information, history, and bill status can be found on the Legislature's website at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces//billSearchClient.xhtml](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces//billSearchClient.xhtml). Our position letters on legislation as well as fiscal impact statements for those bills that would have a substantial fiscal impact on the judicial branch are hyperlinked in the report. These letters are also published on the Judicial Council's Governmental Affairs webpage at [courts.ca.gov/position-letters.htm](http://courts.ca.gov/position-letters.htm).

Hon. Patricia Guerrero

May 22, 2026

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Enclosure

cc: Members of the Judicial Council

Michelle Curran, Administrative Director

Robert Oyung, Chief Deputy Director

Salena Chow, Chief Operating Officer

Erika Sperbeck, Chief Administrative Officer

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Legislation Committee Action on 2025–2026 Legislation**  
**and Status of Bills**

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<sup>1</sup> Does not include actions taken on AB 882 (Papan) Electronic court reporting.

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Legislation Committee Action on 2025–2026 Legislation**  
**and Status of Bills**

Bill No. (Advocate)	Bill No. (Author) Description and Updates	Judicial Council Position	Sponsor	Status as of May 22, 2026
<a href="#">AB 1844</a> (Tracy Kenny)	<a href="#">AB 1844 (Pacheco) Judges’ Retirement System II: beneficiaries</a> As introduced February 11, 2026  Updates the Judges’ Retirement System II (JRS II) to allow judges to designate a non-spouse beneficiary to receive survivor retirement benefits and to extend existing survivor protections to all vested judges.	<a href="#">Support</a>	California Judges Association	<a href="#">Status</a>  Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
<a href="#">AB 1916</a> (Morgan Lardizabal)	<a href="#">AB 1916 (Lee) Courts: court interpreters</a> As introduced February 12, 2026  Removes the exemption of sign language interpreters from the Trial Court Interpreter and Labor Relations Act (Interpreter Act) making the provisions of the Act apply to sign language interpreters.	<a href="#">Oppose</a>	California Federation of Interpreters	<a href="#">Status</a>  Senate Judiciary Committee
<a href="#">AB 1950</a> (Heather Resetarits)	<a href="#">AB 1950 (Harabedian) Civil actions: mediation</a> As amended March 9, 2026  Authorizes the Los Angeles County Superior Court to conduct a pilot project permitting it to refer any case into mediation regardless of the amount in controversy, notwithstanding the current \$75,000 amount in controversy limitation for making such referrals. Requires a case submitted to mediation under this pilot to meet all other mandatory conditions to qualify for mediation, other than the limitation on the amount in controversy. Requires all cases ordered to mediation to be entitled to up to 3 hours of no-cost mediation services provided by a court sanctioned mediation program. Authorizes the parties to be able to appear remotely. Requires the Los Angeles County Superior Court to transmit a report to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Judiciary on or before January 31, 2028, and each year after, about the cases it referred to mediation. Sunsets these provisions on January 1, 2032.	<a href="#">Support</a>	Superior Court of Los Angeles County	<a href="#">Status</a>  Assembly Floor
<a href="#">AB 1978</a> (Tracy Kenny)	<a href="#">AB 1978 (Johnson) California Equal Shared Parenting Act</a> As introduced February 13, 2026  AB 1978 establishes, for child custody proceedings filed on or after January 1, 2027, a rebuttable presumption that equal parenting time is in the best interest of the child if (1) both parents are found fit, willing, and able to parent and (2) both parents reside within 25 miles of the child’s primary school or educational institution. Also authorizes the court to deny equal parenting time if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that shared parenting time is not in the interest of the child due to circumstances that are detrimental to the child, including, but not limited to, a history of substantiated domestic abuse.	<a href="#">Oppose</a>	Author	<a href="#">Status</a>  Assembly Judiciary Committee, failed May 1st policy committee deadline
<a href="#">AB 2104</a> (Morgan Lardizabal)	<a href="#">AB 2104 (Carrillo) Sexually violent predators</a> As amended March 9, 2026	<a href="#">Oppose</a>	Author	<a href="#">Status</a>  Assembly Floor

Bill No. (Advocate)	Bill No. (Author) Description and Updates	Judicial Council Position	Sponsor	Status as of May 22, 2026
	Requires courts to provide an option for members of the public to remotely observe a public proceeding that deals with the commitment of a sexually violent predator (SVP).			
<a href="#">AB 2152</a> (Heather Resetarits)	<p><a href="#">AB 2152 (M. González) California Environmental Quality Act: essential local fire station projects: judicial streamlining</a></p> <p>As amended April 15, 2026</p> <p>Authorizes an “essential local fire station project” to be eligible for judicial streamlining, if the lead agency, at its discretion, makes specified determinations based upon substantial evidence in the record regarding the project, including the determination that the project will employ best practices to avoid or mitigate significant environmental effects. Requires the lead agency, upon determination that a project, activity, or approval is eligible for judicial streamlining pursuant to these provisions, to file a notice of determination with specified content with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. Requires the Judicial Council, on or before July 1, 2027, to adopt rules of court that apply to any action or proceeding brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification of an environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration for an essential local fire station project, including any potential appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 365 calendar days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court.</p>	<a href="#">Oppose</a>	California Professional Firefighters	<a href="#">Status</a> Assembly Floor
<a href="#">AB 2231</a> (Heather Resetarits)	<p><a href="#">AB 2231 (Ahrens) California Environmental Quality Act: hospital projects</a></p> <p>As amended April 22, 2026</p> <p>Establishes a streamlined procedure for the administrative and judicial review of the environmental review and approvals granted for an environmental leadership hospital campus project, defined by the bill as a construction project of a hospital campus in the City of Emeryville or of the City of Santa Clara, under certain conditions. Requires the city council of the City of Emeryville or of Santa Clara, as the lead agency for the hospital campus project, to certify the project for the streamlined judicial review, as specified, if it finds the project will meet those conditions. Requires the project applicant of the environmental leadership hospital campus project to take certain actions in order for those specified procedures to apply to the project. Requires the Judicial Council, on or before July 1, 2027, to adopt rules of court establishing procedures requiring actions or proceedings seeking judicial review of the certification of an environmental impact report for an environmental leadership hospital campus project or the granting of any project approval, including any appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 calendar days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court.</p>	<a href="#">Oppose</a>		<a href="#">Status</a> Senate Rules Committee
<a href="#">AB 2235</a> (Tracy Kenny)	<p><a href="#">AB 2235 (Pacheco) The Judicial Home Security Act</a></p> <p>As amended April 9, 2026</p> <p>Establishes the Judicial Home Security Act, creating a Judicial Home Security Program administered by the Attorney General’s Office. Modeled after California’s Safe At Home Program, AB 2235 authorizes judicial officers to use an alternate mailing address in place of their home address in public records. Requires the alternate address to be a post office box or personal mailbox. Allows that address to be used on all public records, including by the County Assessor and Recorder offices as a substitute for the program participant’s situs address on real property deeds, real estate records, and any other records containing the home address of a program participant. Authorizes disclosure of records for specific purposes including in matters relating to</p>	<a href="#">Support</a>	California Judges Association	<a href="#">Status</a> Assembly Floor

Bill No. (Advocate)	Bill No. (Author) Description and Updates	Judicial Council Position	Sponsor	Status as of May 22, 2026
	real estate transactions. Authorizes the Attorney General's office to charge a fee to cover the costs of providing the program.			
<a href="#">AB 2524</a> (Tracy Kenny)	<a href="#">AB 2524 (Gipson) Pupils: work permits: juvenile court</a> As amended April 27, 2027 Authorizes a work permit to be issued by a juvenile court to minors who are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Provides that a court may issue a work permit if it finds that it is in the best interests of the child and is issued on a form that contains the information currently found on work permits issued by schools. Requires the court to provide written notice, within 60 days of issuing the work permit, to the minor's school district, charter school, or private school personnel responsible for issuing work permits. Authorizes the school district, charter school, or private school to revoke a work permit issued by a judicial officer.	<a href="#">Oppose unless amended, neutral if amended</a>	Parents, Educators/Teachers and Students in Action	<a href="#">Status</a> Assembly Floor
<a href="#">AB 2783</a> (Morgan Lardizabal)	<a href="#">AB 2783 (Committee on Judiciary) Court reporting</a> As amended April 16, 2027 Adds successful completion of the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) nationally recognized certification administered through the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) to the list of examinations that satisfy the dictation/transcription component of the California state court reporter licensing exam and extends the termination date for the remote court reporting pilot project from July 1, 2026 out to July 1, 2028. Provides an urgency clause to allow the bill to go into effect upon signature by the Governor as the current expiration date of the pilot project is July 1 of this year.	<a href="#">Support</a>	National Court Reporters Association	<a href="#">Status</a> Assembly Floor
<a href="#">SB 1097</a> (Heather Resetarits)	<a href="#">SB 1097 (Wiener) California Environmental Quality Act: electrical distribution: clean energy: exemptions: standard of review</a> As amended March 25, 2026 Exempts from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) any projects that consist of the inspection, maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, reconductoring with advanced conductors, replacement, or removal of a transmission wire or cable used to conduct electricity or other piece of equipment that is directly attached to the wire or cable and that meet certain requirements. If a lead agency determines that such a project is exempt from CEQA, SB 1097 requires the lead agency to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and with the county clerk in each county in which the project is located. Establishes a modified approval process for a lead agency to follow when approving specified clean energy generation, storage, and transmission projects. Further requires that any challenge to a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court.	Oppose  Remove opposition <i>*No letter*</i>		<a href="#">Status</a> Senate Appropriations Committee, held on the suspense file
<a href="#">SB 1157</a> (Tracy Kenny)	<a href="#">SB 1157 (Archuleta) Juveniles: secure youth treatment facilities: less restrictive programs</a> As amended April 22, 2026 Requires the Judicial Council, by January 1, 2028, to develop and adopt guidelines to assist the court in determining whether a particular less restrictive program is an appropriate placement for a ward. Requires the guidelines to direct the court to consider specified topics, including: whether and what type of insurance coverage a program is required to possess; the training a program's staff has received; whether a residential program has conducted a criminal	<a href="#">Oppose unless amended</a>	Chief Probation Officers of California	<a href="#">Status</a> Senate Floor

Bill No. (Advocate)	Bill No. (Author) Description and Updates	Judicial Council Position	Sponsor	Status as of May 22, 2026
	background check of prospective employees; whether a program has demonstrated ability to address the risk needs of wards being transferred to the less restrictive program; whether a program has provided proof of notice to the city and county in which it operates; and whether a program utilizing residential facilities meets state and local zoning and land use requirements for residential facilities.			
<a href="#">SB 1160</a> (Morgan Lardizabal)	<p><a href="#">SB 1160</a> (Durazo) Judicial Council: eviction data reporting</p> <p>As amended March 23, 2026</p> <p>Beginning with cases filed on or after January 1, 2027, requires the courts to report to the Judicial Council, on a monthly basis, the following unlawful detainer filing data points, aggregated by the ZIP Code of the premises in the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cases filed each month,</li> <li>- Cases that were subject to default, stipulated, or other types of pretrial judgments already being tracked by the Judicial Council,</li> <li>- Cases that went to trial and, of those cases that went to trial, how many were a bench trial and how many were a jury trial, and</li> <li>- Cases that were dismissed before trial at the plaintiff's request.</li> </ul> <p>Requires the Judicial Council to compile the data into a single electronic spreadsheet available publicly on the website and to update the data every four months.</p>	<a href="#">Oppose</a>	What We All Deserve and Strategic Actions for a Just Economy	<a href="#">Status</a> Senate Floor

**Appendix**  
**Status of 2025–2026 Judicial Council–Sponsored Legislation**

Bill No. (Advocate)	Bill No. (Author) Description and Updates	Sponsor	Status as of May 22, 2026
<a href="#">AB 2798</a> (Tracy Kenny)	<p><u>AB 2798 (Judiciary Committee) Mediation: child custody and visitation</u></p> <p>As introduced March 16, 2026</p> <p>Requires all parties to be given written notice of mediation, including, among others, by court staff when all parties are present for a court hearing. Requires the court to develop a notice of mediation that includes that all communications between the mediator and the disputing parties or a protective order is in effect, that the mediator is required to meet with the parties separately and at separate times at the request of the party alleging domestic violence, as specified.</p>	Judicial Council	<p><a href="#">Status</a></p> <p>Senate Rules Committee</p>
<a href="#">SB 1427</a> (Morgan Lardizabal)	<p><u>SB 1427 (Committee on Public Safety) Public safety omnibus</u></p> <p>As amended May 5, 2026</p> <p>Among other things, amends Penal Code section 1463.007 and Government Code section 68514. The amendments allow for courts collection programs to report based on collections entity rather than activity and aligns reporting language to mirror current practices and authorities related to court debt collections.</p>	Judicial Council	<p><a href="#">Status</a></p> <p>Held at Assembly desk</p>