

Judicial Council of California ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS 770 L Street, Suite 1240 • Sacramento, California 95814-3368 Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE Chief Justice of California Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR Administrative Director of the Courts

CORY T. JASPERSON
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

March 7, 2014

Hon. Katcho Achadjian Member of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 4098 Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Adam Gray Member of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 6012 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject:

AB 1591 (Achadjian), as introduced - Support, if amended and funded

Hearing:

Assembly Public Safety Committee – March 11, 2014

Dear Assembly Member Achadjian and Assembly Member Gray:

The Judicial Council supports, if amended and funded, AB 1591, which requires that courts notify the Department of Justice (DOJ) about individuals who have been adjudged by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, a danger to others as a result of a mental disorder or mental illness, or a mentally disordered sex offender within 24 hours instead of two days of the finding in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the DOJ.

The council supports the bill, if it is amended, to require courts to report, within *one court day* of adjudication, individuals who have been adjudged by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, a danger to others as a result of a mental disorder or mental illness, or a mentally disordered sex offender provided the bill contains a specific appropriation to cover

Hon. Katcho Achadjian Hon. Adam Gray March 7, 2014 Page 2

the courts' costs of implementation. The council believes that 24 hours is an unrealistic timeframe because most often minutes of the proceedings and other relevant court records are not available for processing within 24 hours. Because courts, unlike hospitals, are not open on evenings and weekends, courts will need to pay employees overtime to work evenings and on weekends to meet this requirement.

The council supports the bill if funded because most often the relevant court records are not normally available for processing within 24 hours. To meet a *one court day* reporting requirement, courts would be required to change existing processes and devote more staff time during regular business hours to prepare relevant court records. With current and ongoing limitations on court budgets and reduced staffing, even the *one court day* requirement likely will require courts to pay overtime to meet the requirements.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1591, if amended and funded.

Sincerely,

Sharon Reilly Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc: Hon. Nancy Skinner, Member of the Assembly

Shawn Rully

Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor



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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE Chief Justice of California Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

CORY T. JASPERSON Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

May 1, 2014

Hon. Loni Hancock, Chair Senate Public Safety Committee State Capitol, Room 2082 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject:

AB 1591 (Achadjian), as introduced - Support, if amended and funded

Hearing:

Senate Public Safety Committee - May 13, 2014

Dear Senator Hancock:

The Judicial Council supports, if amended and funded, AB 1591, which requires that courts notify the Department of Justice (DOJ) about individuals who have been adjudged by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, a danger to others as a result of a mental disorder or mental illness, or a mentally disordered sex offender within 24 hours instead of two days of the finding in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the DOJ.

The council supports the bill, if it is amended, to require courts to report, within *one court day* of adjudication, individuals who have been adjudged by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, a danger to others as a result of a mental disorder or mental illness, or a mentally disordered sex offender provided the bill contains a specific appropriation to cover the courts' costs of implementation. The council believes that 24 hours is an unrealistic timeframe because most often minutes of the proceedings and other relevant court records are not available for processing within 24 hours. Because courts, unlike hospitals, are not open on evenings and weekends, courts will need to pay employees overtime to work evenings and on weekends to meet this requirement.

The council supports the bill if funded because most often the relevant court records are not normally available for processing within 24 hours. To meet a *one court day* reporting requirement, courts would be required to change existing processes and devote more staff time during regular business hours to prepare relevant court records. With current and ongoing limitations on court budgets and reduced staffing, even the *one court day* requirement likely will require courts to pay overtime to meet the requirements.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 1591, if amended and funded.

Sincerely,

Sharon Reilly Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc.

Members, Senate Public Safety Committee

Hon. Katcho Achadjian, Member of the Assembly

Shaw Gellis

Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee

Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

Mr. Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy



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TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE Chief Justice of California Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

CORY T. JASPERSON Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

June 20, 2014

Hon. Katcho Achadjian Member of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 4098 Sacramento, California 95814

Subject:

AB 1591 (Achadjian), as amended May 20, 2014 - Support

Dear Assembly Member Achadjian:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1591, which requires that courts notify the Department of Justice (DOJ) about individuals who have been adjudged by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, a danger to others as a result of a mental disorder or mental illness, or a mentally disordered sex offender within *one court day* of the finding in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the DOJ. The council appreciates your willingness to accept our request to change "24 hours" to "one court day."

The council is sensitive to the need for courts to report this important information to DOJ in a timely manner. By permitting courts to do so within one court day, the current version of AB 1591 should, in most instances, eliminate the need for court staff to work overtime on weekends to make these important reports. Moreover, the council believes that the DOJ's recent rollout of an electronic reporting system for the courts should further reduce the burdens on courts when reporting to DOJ.

Hon. Katcho Achadjian June 20, 2014 Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1591.

Sincerely,

Sharon Reilly

Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc: Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor



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Administrative Director of the Courts

CORY T. JASPERSON Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

July 9, 2014

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor of California State Capitol, First Floor Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 1591 (Achadjian), as amended May 20, 2014 – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council is pleased to support AB 1591, which requires that courts notify the Department of Justice (DOJ) about individuals who have been adjudged by a court to be incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, a danger to others as a result of a mental disorder or mental illness, or a mentally disordered sex offender within *one court day* of the finding in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the DOJ.

The council is sensitive to the need for courts to report this important information to DOJ in a timely manner. By permitting courts to do so within one court day instead of 24 hours, AB 1591 should, in most instances, eliminate the need for court staff to work overtime on weekends to make these important reports to the DOJ. Moreover, the council believes that the DOJ's recent rollout of an electronic reporting system for the courts should further reduce the burdens on courts when reporting to DOJ.

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. July 9, 2014 Page 2

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 1591.

Sincerely,

Sharon Reilly Senior Attorney

SR/yc-s

cc: Hon. Katcho Achadjian, Member of the Assembly
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor