



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
770 L Street, Suite 1240 • Sacramento, California 95814-3368
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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 15, 2014

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

Subject: AB 2625, as amended April 24, 2014 - Support

Dear Assembly Member Achadjian:

The Judicial Council supports AB 2625, which, among other things, requires the committing court to order a defendant who has been found incompetent to stand trial (IST) to be returned to the court for further specified proceedings no later than 10 days following receipt of a competency progress report that indicates there is no substantial likelihood the defendant will regain mental competence in the foreseeable future. The bill also requires that an IST defendant committed to a state hospital for treatment to regain mental competency, but who has not recovered competence, to be returned to the committing court no later than 90 days before the expiration of the defendant's term of commitment.

The Judicial Council is aware of the significant backlog that currently exists due to a shortage of state hospital beds for treating IST and other forensic mental health patients. The council agrees with the author and sponsor that this backlog results in patients often spending prolonged periods of time without proper treatment and evaluation services while they are stuck in local jails awaiting placement. In such circumstances, many courts have to resort to setting multiple status conferences and issuing orders to show cause, and in the more extreme cases, threatening the Department of State Hospitals with contempt in order to secure a state hospital bed for the patient. While AB 2625 alone will not completely resolve

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the overall capacity problems in the state hospital system, the council believes it is an important step that will help reduce the waits and assist in securing more timely placements for IST patients.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 2625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Pone", with a stylized, cursive script.

Daniel Pone
Senior Attorney

DP/nco

cc: Mr. Tom Dey, Assistant Director for Legislation, Department of State Hospitals
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Shaun Naidu, Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Mr. Jerome McGuire, Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee



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May 28, 2014

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

Subject: AB 2625(Achadjian), as amended April 24, 2014 – Support
Hearing: Senate Public Safety Committee – June 10, 2014

Dear Senator Hancock:

The Judicial Council supports AB 2625, which, among other things, requires the committing court to order a defendant who has been found incompetent to stand trial (IST) to be returned to the court for further specified proceedings no later than 10 days following receipt of a competency progress report that indicates there is no substantial likelihood the defendant will regain mental competence in the foreseeable future. The bill also requires that an IST defendant committed to a state hospital for treatment to regain mental competency, but who has not recovered competence, to be returned to the committing court no later than 90 days before the expiration of the defendant's term of commitment.

The Judicial Council is aware of the significant backlog that currently exists due to a shortage of state hospital beds for treating IST and other forensic mental health patients. The council agrees with the author and sponsor that this backlog results in patients often spending prolonged periods of time without proper treatment and evaluation services while they are stuck in local jails awaiting placement. In such circumstances, many courts have to resort to setting multiple status conferences and issuing orders to show cause, and in the more extreme cases, threatening the Department of State Hospitals with contempt in order to secure a state hospital bed for the patient. While AB 2625 alone will not completely resolve

Hon. Loni Hancock
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the overall capacity problems in the state hospital system, the council believes it is an important step that will help reduce the waits and assist in securing more timely placements for IST patients.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports AB 2625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Pone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Pone" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel Pone
Senior Attorney

DP/nco

cc: Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Hon. Katcho Achadjian, Member of the Assembly
Mr. Tom Dey, Assistant Director for Legislation, Department of State Hospitals
Mr. Jerome McGuire, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Mr. Eric Csizmar, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor



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STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director

CORY T. JASPERSON
Director, Governmental Affairs

August 27, 2014

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

Subject: AB 2625 (Achadjian) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council supports AB 2625, which, among other things, requires the committing court to order a defendant who has been found incompetent to stand trial (IST) to be returned to the court for further specified proceedings no later than 10 days following receipt of a competency progress report that indicates there is no substantial likelihood the defendant will regain mental competence in the foreseeable future. The bill also requires that an IST defendant committed to a state hospital for treatment to regain mental competency, but who has not recovered competence, to be returned to the committing court no later than 90 days before the expiration of the defendant's term of commitment.

The Judicial Council is aware of the significant backlog that currently exists due to a shortage of state hospital beds for treating IST and other forensic mental health patients. The council agrees with the author and sponsor that this backlog results in patients often spending prolonged periods of time without proper treatment and evaluation services while they are stuck in local jails awaiting placement. In such circumstances, many courts have to resort to setting multiple status conferences and issuing orders to show cause, and in the more extreme cases, threatening the

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Department of State Hospitals with contempt in order to secure a state hospital bed for the patient. While AB 2625 alone will not completely resolve the overall capacity problems in the state hospital system, the council believes it is an important step that will help reduce the waits and assist in securing more timely placements for IST patients.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council requests your signature on AB 2625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Pone", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Pone
Senior Attorney

DP/nco

cc: Hon. Katcho Achadjian, Member of the Assembly
Mr. Tom Dey, Assistant Director for Legislation, Department of State Hospitals
Ms. June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor